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REPORT.

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR

FOR THE YEAR

1915-16



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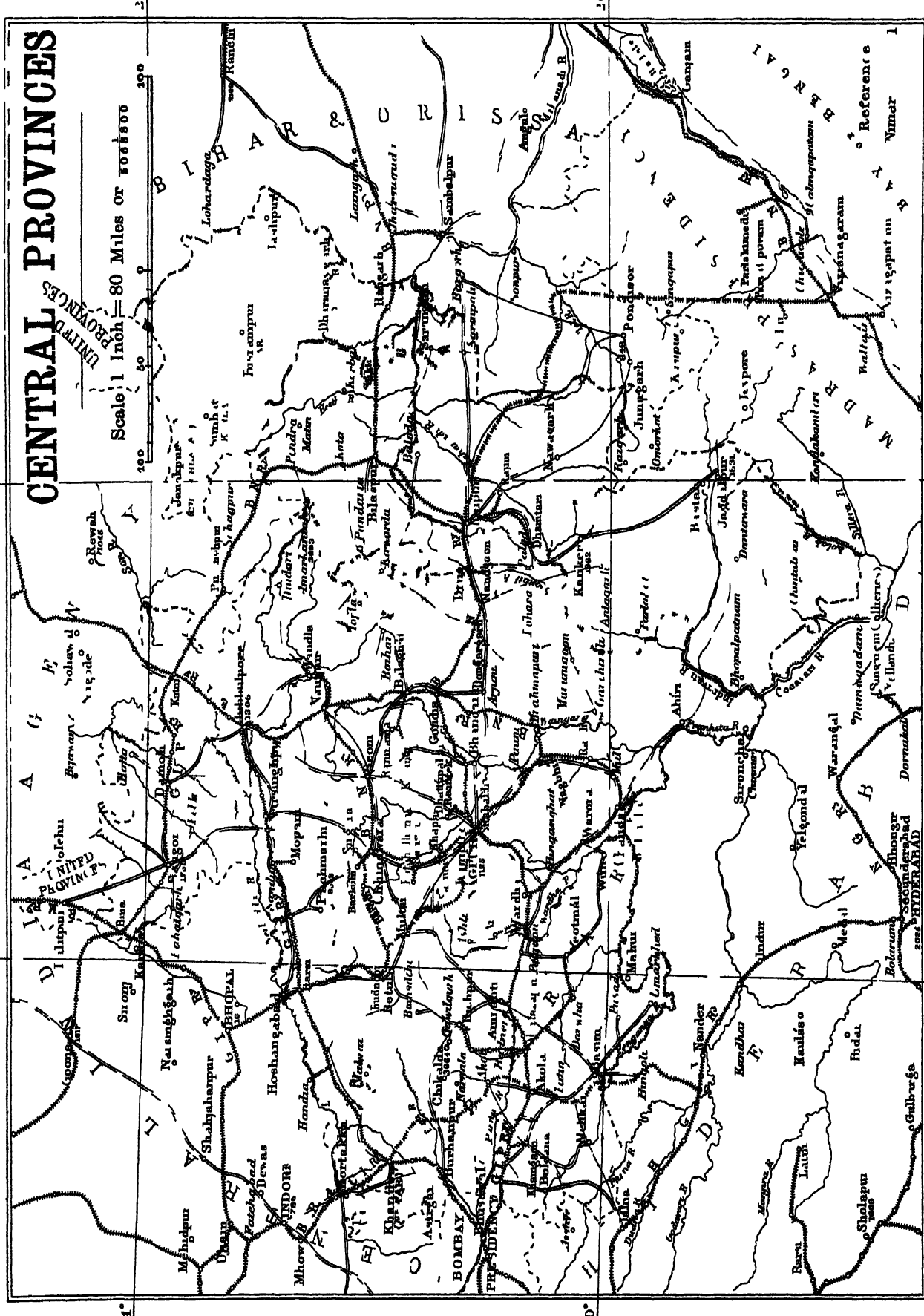
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CENTRAL PROVINCES

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ADMINISTRATION REPORT
OF THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR
FOR
THE YEAR 1915-16

PART I
GENERAL SUMMARY

The reports on which this review of the Administration of the Central **Introduction.** Provinces and Berar is based relate to the several different periods specified at the head of each section in Part II, and the various periods of 12 months to which the different sections of the report refer cover in all a period of 23 months, beginning on the 1st of August 1914 and ending on the 30th June 1916.

2. The monsoon of 1915, though somewhat late, opened with abundant and **General** well distributed rainfall, and there was a large expansion of the area sown with kharif crops. Seasonable rainfall continued in July, August and September and the monsoon was prolonged longer than usual into October. Favoured by the conditions of the season, the outturn of the crops of food-grains was well over the normal and the yield of the cotton crop was also in excess of the average. The conditions were for the most part favourable for the sowing and germination of the rabi crops, but the general course of the winter season was not altogether propitious. Though wheat gave a normal outturn, the yield of the rabi harvest as a whole was somewhat less than average. The produce of the harvests of the entire Province represented 112 per cent of the normal as compared with 97 per cent in the year 1914-15. The volume of trade also recovered from the depression caused by the outbreak of the war, and the economic position of the people generally was good. The public health of the year was less satisfactory; plague was prevalent and the mortality from fever was high, while the birth-rate was the lowest for eleven years. The relations of the people with the officers of Government remained excellent; political crime was conspicuous by its absence and there were encouraging indications of increasing co-operation and confidence on the part of the public in the activities of the several departments of administration. The loyalty and good-will of the people towards Government were conspicuously maintained in view of the continuance of the war, and the claims of the War Relief Funds continued to meet with a spontaneous and gratifying response.

3. The Hon'ble Sir Benjamin Robertson, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., **Administration.** I.C.S., LL.D., held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner throughout the year under report.

Legislation.

4. The Legislative Council of the Central Provinces held meetings in August 1915 and in March 1916. The Excise Bill, the Vaccination Law Amendment Bill and the Slaughter of Animals Bill were passed, while two bills were introduced, the Medical Registration Bill and the Land Alienation Bill. The Land Revenue Bill and the Tenancy Amendment Bill were still under discussion.

Feudatory States.

5. During the year 1915 the management of the Chhuikhadan State was relinquished to the Feudatory Chief, Mahant Budhar Kishore Dass, who was installed on the *gaddi* at the beginning of the year. Raja Liladhar Singh, Feudatory Chief of Sakti, who succeeded his adoptive father in the previous year, was also installed, and Raja Lal Bahadur Singh, Feudatory Chief of Khairagarh, was invested with full powers. The monsoon of 1915 gave ample and well distributed rainfall and the harvests in most States were good. The general condition of the people remained satisfactory in spite of the high price of food-grains and the land revenue was for the most part easily and fully realised. With the exception of the depression in the market for forest produce, trade remained unaffected by the war and was of the normal volume, while employment was ample and wages remained high. The year was less healthy than its predecessor and outbreaks of cholera and small-pox and malaria caused a number of deaths. There was a small increase in the total number of offences reported and in the number of admissions to Jail. Settlement operations were in progress in Sarangarh, Khairagarh, Raigarh and Sakti, and boundary disputes between Korea and Surguja, Surguja and Jashpur and Khairagarh and Nandgaon were finally decided. The financial condition of all the States, excepting Changbhakar, which had a small adverse balance, was entirely satisfactory.

Condition of the People.

6. The agricultural season of 1915-16 was a successful one and the satisfactory yield of the harvest brought some reduction in the prices of food-stuffs, the fall amounting to 19 per cent in the case of wheat and 17 per cent in the case of juar. The recovery of over 50 per cent in the market value of cotton, accompanying a largely increased outturn, secured handsome profits to the cotton-growers, who had suffered from the unfavourable conditions in the previous year. Employment was ample at fairly high rates of wages, and the general condition of cultivators and labourers left little to be desired. The season, however, was less favourable to the public health; though the death-rate fell slightly from 36.69 to 35.91 per mille, as compared with a quinquennial mean of 37.7, the mortality remained high under all diseases except cholera and small-pox, and the birth-rate declined from 51.37 to the low figure of 47.95.

Realisation of Revenue.

7. The total current demand on account of land revenue proper in the agricultural year 1914-15 amounted to 191½ lakhs of rupees, the increase of a lakh and a quarter over the figure of the previous year being due to Settlement changes. There was also due for collection on account of arrears a sum of over 12½ lakhs suspended in the previous year. Of the current demand half a lakh was remitted, while of the arrears, in view of the unfavourable rabi crops of the past few years, more than two and three-quarter lakhs was remitted and over two lakhs was allowed to remain suspended. With the exception of half a lakh, which remained uncollected, the net demand was recovered with no greater difficulty than was to be expected in view of the heavy arrears both of Land Revenue and Agricultural Loans. The season being more favourable than in the previous year, the advances made under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and the Land Improvement Loans Act decreased from twenty-two and a half lakhs to ten lakhs. Excluding suspensions and remissions, in respect of which a lenient policy was followed, a sum of a lakh and a half remained overdue.

8. The local Traverse Survey Party completed the sub-traverse of 620 villages and carried out the traverse of three towns, in addition to special work in connection with the settlement of boundary disputes affecting Native States. The orders of the Government of India were received on the final report on the settlement of the Damoh District, and the forecast reports on the re-settlement of the Seoni and Bhandara Districts were submitted. Settlement operations were in progress in five districts and map correction preparatory to settlement in two districts. **Survey and Settlement.**

9. The revision of the patwari halkabandi in two districts and the formation of a new tahsil in another resulted altogether in the addition of four Revenue Inspectors and the reduction of five patwaris. The number of punishments inflicted on patwaris again showed a considerable decrease. The cadre of Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Land Records was amalgamated with that of the Subordinate Executive Civil Service. The preparation of the Record-of-Rights in Berar is approaching completion. **Land Records.**

10. At the beginning of the year there were seventy-four estates under the management of the Court of Wards; five estates were relinquished with their financial position substantially improved and four estates were newly brought under management. The sixty-nine estates which remained under management throughout the year covered 6,763,101 acres and yielded a gross income of nearly twenty and a half lakhs of rupees. Owing to the large balance left over for collection from the previous year, out of the total rental demand of over nine lakhs, Rs. 23,815 was suspended and an unsuspended balance of Rs. 69,801 remained due at the close of the year. Forest income declined owing to the depression in the trade in forest produce caused by the war, but progress was made with the preparation of working-plans and the training of the forest staff. The gross expenditure amounted to over twelve and a half lakhs of rupees, and the incidence of the cost of management on gross income of the estates rose from fifteen to sixteen per cent. Out of current income the sum of Rs. 1,36,253 was devoted to liquidation of debts, and the total amount of debt was reduced from Rs. 8,41,127 to Rs. 7,07,912. Home-farm cultivation was carried on in thirty-six estates with results which varied from a profit of Rs. 8-8-3 to a loss of Rs. 7 per acre, a larger number of estates showing a loss than in the previous year. The education of minor wards and their relatives received due attention and senior wards or their heirs received practical training by their association in the management of estate affairs. **Wards' Estates.**

11. The number of offences reported to the Police in 1915 was 42,046 as compared with 38,974 in the previous year. The increase, which was mainly under thefts and house-breakings, was due to the conditions of the year, the chief factors being high prices, shortage of money and the prevalence of plague, and in part to the continued improvement in the reporting and registration of crime. Steady improvement was maintained in methods of investigation and discretion was correctly exercised in the matter of undertaking or refusing investigation of reports. The percentage of successful prosecutions showed a slight increase. There was an increase in the number of recruits enlisted and a decrease in the number of resignations and desertions, but the number of vacancies in the force was still high. The main difficulty is the inadequacy of the pay of the rank and file and to remedy this state of affairs a scheme for the revision of the pay and prospects of the lower ranks was submitted to the Government of India. The improvement in the relations between the police and the people was well maintained. **Police.**

Criminal Justice.

12. The total number of offences before the Courts in 1915 was 40,246 as against 43,896 in 1914, the number of cases returned as true falling from 32,383 to 30,079. The decrease was mainly under complaint cases and was due to the adverse economic conditions prevailing for part of the year, which discouraged expenditure on petty criminal litigation. The number of cases dismissed under Section 203 of the Criminal Procedure Code decreased from 9,017 to 7,944. The strength of the Magistracy increased by 11 and the percentage of magisterial cases disposed of by Stipendiary Magistrates was 72.5, the remainder being dealt with by Honorary and Special Magistrates. The average duration of trials in all Courts decreased from 19 to 18.5 days. There was a substantial decrease in the total number of appeals for decision in all Courts except that of the Judicial Commissioner, and there was a distinct increase in the proportion of cases in which the sentence of the Lower Court was upheld. The percentages of convicted persons sentenced to whipping, fine and imprisonment were 4.5, 70.3 and 25.2, respectively.

Prisons.

13. The number of persons admitted to Jail in 1915 was 10,815 as compared with 10,175 in the previous year and there was an increase in the daily average Jail population from 3,846 to 4,136. In spite of the large increase in the Jail population, a good state of discipline was maintained and the number of prison offences and punishments awarded showed a substantial fall. The improvement in the health of the prisoners, which was a feature of the last two years, received a check and the rate of deaths per mille rose from 12.48 to 18.86. The average cost of maintenance of each prisoner fell on account of the increase of the Jail population from Rs 106-15-1 to Rs 99-6-5, but, owing to reduced profits from the sale of Jail manufactures, the net cost to Government per prisoner rose by Rs. 9.

Civil Justice.

14. The post of fourth Judge in the Judicial Commissioner's Court, which was originally created as a temporary measure, was made permanent. The number of suits instituted in 1915 was 110,502, an increase of 12,880 over the figures of the previous year. The marked variation is due to the fact that in the preceding year litigation was depressed by unfavourable agricultural and economic conditions, while in 1915 the situation improved and business revived. The average value of suits remained almost stationary in the Central Provinces, but in Berar it declined somewhat. Owing to the large volume of institutions the pending files showed a substantial increase, but the number of suits pending over six months was appreciably reduced. There was a substantial decrease in the total number of appeals, except in Berar. There was a further fall in the duration of original suits.

Registration.

15. The total number of registrations effected in 1915 showed a fall from 92,601 to 80,553 and the aggregate value of the property affected in the whole Province declined from 566 lakhs to 455 lakhs of rupees. In the first eight months of the year the volume of registrations fell by 18 per cent as compared with that of the corresponding period of the previous year, but, consequent on the recovery in trade, the number of registrations in the remaining four months showed an increase of 14 per cent as compared with the corresponding period of 1914. Seventy-three per cent of the sales of villages and shares of villages were in favour of agriculturists as against seventy-one per cent in 1914.

Municipal Administration.

16. The number of Municipalities remained unaltered during 1915-16, while the only changes in constitution were in Nagpur, where revised election rules were brought into force and the number of elected members

of the Committee rose by four, and in the Arvi and Bilaspur Municipalities, where additions were made to the number of elected members. The total income, excluding debt and extraordinary receipts, fell from Rs. 33,09,175 to Rs. 32,90,763, if Government contributions be left out of consideration, however, the real income from Municipal resources increased from Rs. 26,55,151 to Rs. 27,84,564. Octroi receipts showed a rise of nearly Rs. 42,000 and other taxes of about Rs. 85,000. Government contributions amounted to a little over five lacs and about three-fourths of this sum consisted of grants for Sanitary purposes. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 36,44,486, a little less than in 1914-15; while the expenditure on water-supply decreased, the outlay on Sanitation and Education increased. The total closing balances amounted to Rs. 10,93,611, a decrease of about Rs. 80,000. The minimum balances prescribed for Municipalities were revised during the year, and the large balances in some Municipalities were due to the accumulation of a reserve for special objects. Eighteen Municipalities were indebted to Government on account of loans to the extent of Rs. 26,69,762 in all; the financial position of all these Municipalities was satisfactory.

17. There was no change in the constitution or number of District Councils or Local Boards during the year 1915-16. Income and expenditure rose by Rs. 93,000 and Rs. 3,85,000, respectively. Government contributions for Education and Civil Works increased by Rs. 98,000 and amounted to nearly 16 lakhs of rupees. The income under Local Rates increased by Rs. 37,000, while Cattle-pound and Bazar cess receipts fell by Rs. 21,000 and Rs. 18,000, respectively. There was a considerable increase of expenditure under each of the three important heads, "Education," "Medical and Sanitation" and "Civil Works". The percentage of total income expended on Public Instruction was 31 in the Central Provinces and 35 in Berar. Closing balances were 3½ lakhs less than at the end of the previous year; the measures taken in Berar resulted in a substantial reduction of the excessive balances of District Boards and a programme of road construction was drawn up which will to a large extent absorb the surplus funds of these bodies.

18. Although the continuance of financial stringency in 1915-16 prevented the inauguration of any new projects on a large scale, the equipment of the new farm at Betul was completed and experimental farms were opened at Chandkhuri in the Raipur District and at Kawardha. The course of instruction at the Agricultural College was remodelled and the introduction of the new curriculum attracted a larger number of students. The completion of the Agricultural Research Institute gave a stimulus to research; the season was a favourable one for the Department's field work and some useful results were obtained on the ten Government farms both in experiment and demonstration, and large quantities of selected seed were distributed from them. In connection with the development of irrigation in the Province, which depends largely on the Agricultural Department, valuable work was done in investigating the most economical and profitable methods of supplying water and in demonstrating the results in the areas commanded by the important irrigation works now approaching completion. The operations of the agricultural unions and seed farms maintained in association with the Co-operative movement, which have proved the best medium for the distribution of pure seed, continued to expand: in the Northern Circle alone the area of certified seed farms exceeded 6,000 acres, while it is estimated that at least one-third of the cotton area of the Province was sown with the improved Rosea seed which

emanated from the Akola Farm and owes its distribution to the local unions and seed farms. The expenditure on the Department amounted to four and a half lakhs of rupees, an increase of only Rs. 13,469 over the previous year.

Co-operative Societies.

19. The conditions of the year 1915-16 were more favourable for Co-operative Societies than in the previous year and the movement made substantial progress and consolidated its position. The number of societies rose from 2,297 to 2,685, the membership from 44,084 to 60,538 and the working capital from 72½ lakhs to 87 lakhs of rupees. The Provincial Bank had a successful year; its working capital increased from 13½ lakhs to 16½ lakhs of rupees and a dividend of 4 per cent was declared. The Central Banks, which numbered 29 as in the previous year, strengthened their financial position; their working capital increased from Rs. 29,37,461 to Rs. 36,20,726 and they owned 24 per cent of their capital. The number of rural societies rose from 2,154 to 2,412 and their membership from 36,981 to 40,998.

Veterinary Department.

20. The year 1915-16 was an exceptionally healthy one for cattle; the mortality from rinderpest showed a decrease of nearly 64 per cent from the previous year's figure, while the mortality from all diseases was little more than two-thirds of that in 1914-15. At the same time the activities of the Department and the confidence of the people in its work steadily increased and the total number of cases treated, excluding inoculations, rose to well over a quarter of a million. The expenditure incurred by the Veterinary Department rose from Rs. 2,10,555 to Rs. 2,21,288.

Weather and Crops.

21. The general average rainfall in the Central Provinces in 1915 was 49.08 inches as compared with an average of 48.35 for the past 48 years, and in Berar 33.52 inches against a twenty-two years' average of 31.91. In the favourable conditions of the season, the area under kharif crops in the Central Provinces expanded by 336,816 acres, or by 3 per cent, while there was a slight increase in Berar. The area occupied by juar increased by no less than 20 per cent in the Central Provinces and by 11 per cent in Berar and the area under rice also rose considerably in the former area, while the area occupied by cotton shrank by 25 per cent in the Central Provinces and by 10 per cent in Berar. The rabi area of the Province as a whole increased by 171,032 acres or by 2 per cent. The area under wheat and wheat-grain in the Central Provinces amounted to 3,346,331 acres, an increase of 5 per cent.

Forests.

22. The area under the control of the Forest Department decreased by one square mile, and the percentage of Reserved Forests on the total area of the Central Provinces and Berar was 19.7. Of the total forest area of 19,666 square miles, 15,212 square miles were managed under regularly sanctioned working-plans, while new plans were in preparation for 1,980 square miles. The total number of Forest offences rose and an increase was recorded in every circle and under every head, particularly under the head of unauthorised grazing. Fire protection was attempted over 10,920 square miles, and 97 per cent of this area was successfully protected at an average cost of Rs. 9-4-7 per square mile. The area subject to systematic exploitation increased by 20,646 acres. The number of cattle grazed in Government Forest fell by 103,709; the fall, which occurred in the Berar and Northern Circles, was attributed chiefly to the plentiful supply of village fodder. The gross revenue fell from Rs. 32,73,539 in 1914-15 to Rs. 32,20,755, and the expenditure from Rs. 18,80,927 to Rs. 16,95,026; the net revenue of Rs. 15,25,729, representing 47 per cent of the gross revenue, was the largest yet recorded.

23. One new coal mine was opened during 1915 and the total number of collieries working in the Province rose to twelve. The provincial output of coal increased from 244,745 tons in 1914 to 253,118 tons, and the general average price at the pit-head was Rs. 4-4-6 per ton, a little less than that of the previous year. The manganese mining industry did not recover from the serious set-back caused by the outbreak of the war until the latter half of 1915, when demand for the ore became keen, mainly for the manufacture of munitions. The provincial output for the year 1915 fell from 510,936 tons to 352,969 tons, and its value from Rs. 22,02,272 to Rs. 14,59,448. The output of lime-stone and iron ore showed a very large decrease. The average number of workers employed in mines was 14,296 against 18,294 in 1914. **Mines and Quarries.**

24. The total number of factories rose from 438 in 1914 to 450, of which twenty-six remained closed during the year; 431 factories were engaged in the cotton industry. The total number of operatives employed was 48,846 against 47,159 in the previous year. **Manufactures.**

25. Provincial trade in the year ending on the 31st March 1916 made a great recovery from the depression caused in the previous year by the outbreak of war. Omitting animals and treasure, the total rail-borne traffic of the year amounted to $70\frac{1}{4}$ million maunds valued at $35\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees, as compared with $56\frac{1}{2}$ million maunds valued at $28\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees in the year previous. The bulk of imports increased from 25 to nearly $30\frac{3}{4}$ million maunds and the value rose from $12\frac{1}{2}$ to $13\frac{3}{4}$ crores of rupees. The principal increases in imports were under sugar and manufactured cotton, while there was a noticeable decrease under imported metals. Exports rose in bulk from $31\frac{1}{2}$ to $39\frac{1}{2}$ million maunds and in value from 16 to $21\frac{3}{4}$ crores of rupees. The largest increase in exports was under raw cotton, while there were striking increases under the heads of grain and pulse, oil-seeds, manufactured cotton goods and manganese. The increase in the export of raw cotton was due to the fact that much of the previous year's produce was held back owing to the poor prices then prevailing, to the larger yield of the crop in 1915-16 and to the important rise in market value throughout the season. **Trade.**

26. The year was one of considerable activity in the Public Works Department, and the total expenditure, though less than that of 1914-15, when the record figure of 87 lakhs of rupees was reached, amounted to more than 77 lakhs. The outlay on Provincial works accounted for nearly 64 lakhs of the total, and of this sum Rs. 31,73,655 was spent on original works. Large sums were spent on buildings for almost every department of the Administration; in particular, the requirements of the Education Department absorbed nearly six lakhs of rupees, while sums of over three and a half lakhs and two and a half lakhs were expended for the Police Department and the Department of Law and Justice, respectively. The expenditure on communications amounted to nearly $28\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs, including a sum of over 12 lakhs for original works. Satisfactory progress was made on the lines of communication under construction and under improvement. Steady progress was made with the construction of the water-works and drainage schemes undertaken by the Public Works Department for Municipalities, the most important of which is the drainage scheme for Nagpur. **Public Works.**

27. Although the monsoon of 1915 gave abundant and well distributed rainfall, the area irrigated by the Irrigation Department during the year 1915-16 increased from 44,405 to 52,300 acres. The total revenue demand was **Irrigation.**

Rs. 1,67,271, of which Rs. 1,36,287 was collected during the year. The expenditure on Protective works was 19½ lakhs of rupees, on Productive works over 26 lakhs and on Minor works 5½ lakhs. Good progress was made during the year on the important canal and reservoir projects under construction. The main canal of the Mahanadi project was pushed on towards completion and a beginning was made with irrigation from this work

Revenue and Finance.

28 Imperial revenue in the year 1915-16 amounted to nearly 126½ lakhs of rupees and expenditure to nearly 71½ lakhs, as compared with nearly 118½ lakhs and over 70½ lakhs in the preceding year. The receipts under the heads "Land Revenue" and "Stamps" increased considerably, while Excise revenue showed a marked fall; at the same time there was a decrease of four and three-quarter lakhs under the head "Transfers between Imperial and Provincial". Provincial revenue, including an opening balance of 97½ lakhs, amounted to over 386½ lakhs, and expenditure to 286½ lakhs, leaving a closing balance of over 100½ lakhs. The receipts and expenditure of the year were three and a half lakhs and eighteen and three-quarter lakhs, respectively, less than the figures of the previous year. In receipts apart from the fall under the head "Transfers between Imperial and Provincial", the chief variations were a decrease of seven and a half lakhs under "Excise" and increases of four and a half lakhs and a lakh and a half under the heads "Land Revenue" and "Stamps", respectively. In expenditure the most noticeable variations were the large decreases under "Civil Works", "Reduction or Avoidance of Debt", "Irrigation Minor Works" and "Forest", and the substantial increases under the heads "Police" and "Education"

Vital Statistics.

29. The birth-rate of 1915 which fell to 47.95 per mille, the lowest recorded since 1904, reflects the unhealthiness of the preceding year. The death-rate, however, declined from 36.69 to 35.91 per mille against the quinquennial mean of 37.77 per mille. The proportion of infantile to total mortality was 56 per cent, an improvement of 4 per cent as compared with the previous year. The mortality remained high under all diseases except cholera and small-pox. Plague was prevalent and caused over 20,000 deaths, and the number of inoculations against plague rose from 7,994 to 71,421. The fever mortality again increased and dysentery and diarrhoea were responsible for a high mortality.

Emigration.

30. The recruitment of coolies by contractors was abolished at the close of the previous year by the amendment of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act and operations were confined to the sardari system. At the same time, as agricultural prospects were good and there was an unfailing local demand for labour, the conditions in 1915-16 were unfavourable for emigration. The number of recruiting agents fell from 4,402 to 3,898 and the number of coolies recruited from 6,113 to 3,600. A large part of the labour recruited was, as usual, drawn from the adjoining Native States.

Medical Relief.

31. There was a net increase in the number of hospitals and dispensaries during the year from 273 to 281. Of this number 31 were maintained by the State, 172 by Local Bodies and 28 by Railways, the remainder being either private or State-aided institutions. The total number of patients treated at dispensaries was 1,802,778 as compared with 1,746,424 in the previous year. The number of surgical operations performed rose from 49,029 to 49,978. The total receipts decreased by three-quarters of a lakh to Rs. 13,44,702, the

decrease being accounted for by the reduction in the Government contribution. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 9,14,435, an increase of Rs. 4,250 over the figure of the previous year.

32. Good progress was made during the year in the construction of Sanitary **Sanitation.** works and the examination of new projects. The most important water-works schemes under construction were those of Akola, Arvi, Buldana and Damoh. The principal drainage schemes on which work was in progress were those of Nagpur and Harda. Steady progress was made in the improvement of the sanitation of Municipal towns. The provisions of the Village Sanitation Act were extended to six villages during the year.

33. The total number of vaccination operations performed in British territory **Vaccination.** was 599,959, a decrease of 2,684 as compared with 1914-15. The decrease, which was confined to primary vaccinations, was attributed to the prevalence of plague and the low birth-rate. The mortality from small-pox showed a marked decrease and was 865 as against 3,133 in the preceding year. In Municipal towns the number of infants successfully vaccinated was 27,270, or 93 per cent of the children available, an increase of two per cent over the preceding year. The total expenditure was Rs. 1,21,858 against Rs. 95,604 in the previous year, and the cost of each successful vaccination rose from Re. 0-2-6 to Re. 0-3-3, the increase being due to the improvement in the pay of the staff and additions to the establishment. The special buildings for the Central Vaccine Depôt were not completed, but the Depôt in its existing accommodation was able to supply seven districts with excellent lymph.

34. The year's figures show an increase of 37 in the number of schools and **Education.** 2,715 in the number of pupils, which is considerably less than the increase effected in the two preceding years. In the Primary stage the number of schools and pupils actually decreased; the decline in attendance was confined to the Lower Primary stage and was due to the prevalence of epidemic disease and in part to the measures taken to remove habitual absentees from the rolls and to reduce unwieldy classes within the limits imposed by staff and accommodation. At the close of the year educational institutions of all kinds numbered 4,566 and the total number of scholars was 350,381. The percentage of the number of scholars to the total population of school-going age was 16.79 as compared with 16.65 in the preceding year. The administration and progress of the Colleges was satisfactory, and in the course of the year the Morris College at Nagpur was taken under direct Government control. The number of students attending Colleges increased by 67. The increase in the number of pupils attending High Schools was well maintained, but the rate of increase in Middle Schools was less marked than in the preceding year. One new High School was opened and the number of pupils in High Schools increased by 561, while the number of Middle Schools rose by three and the number of pupils in this stage by 779. A revised Grant-in-aid Code was introduced with the object of securing the most effective distribution of available funds. The number of Primary Schools decreased by 24 and the number of pupils by 1,128, owing to the closure, for want of support, of a number of schools in Berar. Female education continued to make gradual progress. The number of girls attending girls' schools rose from 19,006 to 19,356, the bulk of the increase being in the Primary stage, while the number of girls in the Primary stage attending boys' schools rose to 15,169.

PART II

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CHAPTER I

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

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At pages 1 to 54 of the Administration Report for 1911-12 will be found an account of the following subjects drawn up for standard reference :—

1—PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE
AND CHIEF STAPLES

2—HISTORICAL SUMMARY

3—FORM OF ADMINISTRATION

4—CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES

5—SYSTEM OF SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT

6—CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY

7—DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS, TRIBES AND LANGUAGES

8—CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION

CHANGES IN
THE ADMINIS-
TRATION

2. The Hon'ble Sir Benjamin Robertson, K C S I., K C M G., C I. E., I. C S, L L D, held charge of the office of Chief Commissioner throughout the year under report.

9—RELATIONS WITH FEUDATORY STATES

RELATIONS
WITH
FEUDATORY
STATES

[Report on the Administration of the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces for the year 1915.]

3 The Nandgaon and Korea States remained under management by General. Government owing to the minority of the Feudatory Chiefs. Management of the Chhuikhadan State was relinquished and the Chief, Mahant Budhar Kishore Dass, was installed on the *gaddi* by the Chief Commissioner at a Darbar held at Raipur early in the year and assumed charge of the administration of the State. Raja Liladhar Singh was also installed as Feudatory Chief of Sakti in succession to his adoptive-father, and Raja Lal Bahadur Singh, Feudatory Chief of Khairagarh, was invested with full powers. The Feudatory Chief of Kanker married the daughter of Lal Sheonarayan Deo of the Khariar Zamindari. Liberal contributions were made by the Chiefs to the various War Relief Funds. The Chief Commissioner visited the Raigarh, Sarangarh and Nandgaon States during the year.

4. The monsoon of 1915 was well sustained and gave ample and evenly distributed rain, the aggregate rainfall on the whole comparing favourably with that of the previous year. There was an extension of the cultivated area in some States. In Makrai the spring crops suffered from the absence of rain at the close of the previous year, while of the autumn crops the rice crop in Sakti was damaged to some extent by insect pests and the cotton crops in Kawardha and Khairagarh gave a poor outturn owing to excessive rain. With these exceptions the harvests were good in most of the States.

5. Trade was generally normal, except in Kanker and Jashpur, where the export of forest produce was adversely affected by the conditions arising out of the war; the position in Raigarh improved and trade was brisk. Large quantities of food-grains were exported from Bastar and Sakti to Native States and British districts, and the local prices were high in consequence. Labour was ample, except in Khairagarh, where the shortage reported in the previous year continued,

while wages remained generally good. In the Korea State a prospecting license was granted to the firm of Messrs. Tata, Sons & Co. with a view to the development of the resources of the local coal-field.

Condition of the people.

6. The year was peaceful and the general condition of the people was satisfactory. The price of food-grains continued to increase in several States, and especially in Jashpur, where there was scarcity during the rainy season, but no distress was reported anywhere; in Kawardha alone prices declined to some extent. Sufficient employment was available everywhere and the rate of wages advanced in two States. The public health was less satisfactory than in the previous year. Outbreaks of cholera occurred in Raigarh and the Western States and the disease assumed a virulent form in Kawardha, while small-pox appeared in Surguja and Chhuikhadan and caused a number of deaths in Jashpur. The mortality from malaria was high in Raigarh and Nandgaon. Cattle disease was prevalent in Chhuikhadan and in some villages in Bastar and Kanker.

Finance.

7. The financial condition of the States was generally entirely sound. Changbhakar alone showed an adverse balance, but the State repaid the first instalment of the loan of Rs. 5,000 which was granted in the previous year to tide over a season of scarcity.

Land Revenue.

8. There was an increase in the land revenue demand of nine States. The demand for the most part was easily realised in full or with trifling arrears. In three States only, namely, Surguja, Jashpur and Makrai, were the outstandings considerable, and in Surguja, Udaipur and Raigarh alone were coercive processes resorted to in a few cases. Agricultural loans were advanced in Bastar, Raigarh, Sakti, Nandgaon and Korea. A keen demand for land was reported in Sarangarh and Sakti.

Settlement.

9. A regular settlement was completed in Sarangarh, and in Khairagarh settlement was concluded and announcement made in 211 villages. Settlement operations continued in progress in Raigarh and were completed in 98 villages, while a beginning was made with a settlement in Sakti. The settlement of three tahsils of the Bastar State was further extended and the resettlement of certain villages in Changbhakar was postponed. The boundary disputes between Korea and Surguja and between Surguja and Jashpur were enquired into by a special officer and were finally decided, the dispute between Khairagarh and Nandgaon was also settled. Disputes between the Bastar State and the Madras Presidency and between the Sarangarh State and the Sambalpur District remained undecided, and the disputes between the Jashpur and Raigarh States and the Gangpur State in Bihar and Orissa were awaiting settlement by a special officer at the close of the year, while a dispute arose between the Nandgaon State and the Chowki Zamindari of the Drug District.

Criminal Law and Justice.

10. The number of offences brought before the Courts increased in eight States, while in the remaining States the number fell. Twenty-eight cases of heinous crime were reported in six States, of which twelve, including two cases of murder, occurred in Kanker alone. The number of Criminal Courts decreased by two in Bastar and Raigarh and increased by two in Surguja and Korea, while one additional Court was constituted in Udaipur. Two more Civil Courts were established in Surguja and the same number abolished in Bastar. Civil litigation rose considerably in Bastar and Nandgaon, but there was no marked fluctuation in criminal statistics.

Jails.

11. The number of admissions to Jails showed a small increase on the whole as compared with the previous year. In most States the health of the prisoners was satisfactory, but the mortality in the Jails of the Bastar, Surguja, Jashpur and Nandgaon States exceeded that of the preceding year and was distinctly high in the case of the two former. The Jail premises were extended at Khairagarh by the completion of a new barrack for prisoners. In Sakti the manufacture of carpets and *rat-patti*, which was introduced last year, was abandoned in favour of the manufacture of *newar*; while in Korea yarn manufacture and carpentry were adopted as Jail industries during the year.

12. In nearly all States forest income suffered a considerable decline from the figures of the previous year, the fall being most marked in the case of the Kanker State. The decline was principally due to the absence of a market for forest produce, such as lac, harra and hides, owing to conditions connected with the war; in Bastar, on the other hand, a remarkable improvement was effected in forest revenue. Two candidates were deputed from the latter State for a course of forestry at the Provincial Forest School at Balaghat and one passed out of the School successfully. Minor offences were again frequent in the Sarangarh State and largely exceeded the number of the previous year.

13. In ten out of the fifteen States there was an increase in excise revenue. **Excise.** In Makrai the receipts again declined and this result is attributed to an unfavourable harvest. The number of shops in Changbhakar, Jashpur and Sakti fell by two in each case. In Bastar, although the number of shops for excisable goods decreased by 51, excise receipts exceeded those of the previous year. In Surguja the collection of excise revenue fell short of the demand for the year by over Rs. 30,000. No change was made in the excise system of any of the States during the year. Smuggling of baluchar ganja from Sambalpur District into the Raigarh and Sarangarh States continued, while in Changbhakar opium smuggling was again reported and the illicit cultivation of ganja was suspected in parts of the State. Offences against the Excise law numbered eight in Khairagarh, five in Nandgaon and two in Korea.

14. Education continued to receive due attention, and expenditure in this department rose during the year in all the States, except Jashpur, Sakti and Makrai. There was a small increase on the whole in the number of pupils receiving instruction in the schools, and the number of schools open rose by six during the year, new schools being opened in Bastar, Udaipur, Raigarh, Sarangarh and Chhuikhadan (one each), Sakti and Khairagarh (three each), and Changbhakar (two) and six schools being closed in Nandgaon and one in Kanker. The advance in female education was well maintained in the Kanker, Sarangarh and Nandgaon States and good progress was achieved in the Raigarh State. In Kanker practical encouragement is given to education by the selection of successful pupils from the local schools for appointments in the State service. In Nandgaon particular attention was directed to physical instruction in the schools by means of organized games, and the local High School achieved creditable success in this department. The new building of the Natwar High School at Raigarh was formally opened by the Chief Commissioner. Eight candidates were sent from Sarangarh to the Government High School at Raipur at the expense of the State. **Education.**

15. Seven of the States increased their expenditure on public works, while two maintained the same expenditure. In the Raigarh State the installation of the water-works at head-quarters again absorbed a large part of the total expenditure. In Khairagarh ten buildings of public utility were completed, while in Kanker the construction of the Kanker-Sambalpur road was in progress, and in Surguja a new building for the State High School was in course of construction at Ambikapur. In the Sakti State a small irrigation tank was completed during the year. **Public Works.**

10—CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE

16. The monsoon of 1915 broke rather late, but was well sustained and gave more than the average rainfall. In the last week of June sufficient and well-distributed rain enabled a good start to be made with the sowing of the kharif crops. The rainfall during July, August and September was seasonable and, though slight damage was done to cotton and juar in some parts by heavy and continuous rain and to the rice crop in Chhattisgarh by insect pests, the condition of the standing crops was generally excellent all over the Province. Good rain fell in the first half of October, followed by showers later in the month. The important food crops, rice and juar, and millets gave a yield considerably above the normal, and the outturn of cotton and til also, though suffering from excessive rainfall towards the close of the monsoon, was a little above the normal. The outturn of the kharif harvest as a whole for the Central **The Season.**

Chap. I.
CONDITION OF
THE PEOPLE

Provinces and Berar ranged from 90 to 128 per cent of the normal. The season was favourable for the rabi sowings and the cold weather showers in November and December improved the prospects of the growing crops. January and the first part of February were practically rainless, but in the middle of the latter month there was light rainfall which benefited the standing crops, though some damage was caused by cloudy weather, rust and frost. The wheat harvest gave a normal outturn, while the outturn of gram and linseed fell a little short of the normal; the rabi harvest as a whole ranged from 90 to 100 per cent of the normal standard. The total outturn of the kharif and rabi harvests together for the whole Province represented 112 per cent of the normal. The good yield of the harvest brought a reduction in the price of food grains. The price of juar and wheat fell by 17 and 19 per cent, respectively, though the latter still remained well in excess of the pre-war rates, while gram and millets also became cheaper. On the other hand, the price of cotton advanced over 50 per cent and almost reached the level existing before the war, while linseed also fetched a better price owing to increased demand for export. The supply of fodder and water was sufficient throughout the Province.

Favoured by the character of the season, the condition of agriculturists, especially the cultivating tenants and farm labourers, was prosperous everywhere. Food became cheaper and with an unfailing demand for labour wages ruled fairly high. At the same time with reviving confidence trade made a marked recovery from the slump caused by the outbreak of war. The position of the weaving classes, whose trade had suffered most severely from the general depression, was restored by the remarkable change produced in the economic condition of the cotton tracts, on which their market depends, by the satisfactory outturn of the cotton crop and the highly remunerative prices obtained for it, and by the end of 1915 it was possible to close down the operations which had been organised for their relief. In public health the year was less happy; the birth-rate fell to 47.95 per mille, the lowest since 1904, while the death-rate stood at 35.91 per mille, a little lower than in the previous year. The heavy late rainfall, the general prevalence of plague and epidemics of malaria were contributing causes of the high mortality, while the birth-rate was affected by the unhealthy conditions which prevailed in the previous year.

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

1—REALIZATION OF REVENUE

REALIZATION OF REVENUE

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1914-15.]

17. The total demand of land revenue on the roll in the Central Provinces **Central** rose from Rs. 1,00,09,901 on the 1st October 1914 to Rs. 1,01,17,387 on the **Provinces.** 1st October 1915, the increase of just over a lakh being mainly due to settlement operations in the Saugor and Nagpur Districts. The net demand for collection, excluding remissions amounting to Rs. 61,530 granted principally in the Jubbulpore District on account of hail and rust, was Rs. 99,67,998, of which Rs. 99,21,854 was realised, leaving an unsuspended balance of Rs. 46,144. The demand on account of arrears was Rs. 12,58,656, the bulk of which was due to suspensions in the Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Divisions owing to the failure of crops in the previous year; of this Rs. 2,87,513 was remitted, almost entirely in the Jubbulpore District, and Rs. 2,09,346 was allowed to remain suspended, principally in the Damoh and Mandla Districts, leniency being shown in these areas in view of the unfavourable rabi crops of the past few years. The remainder was collected except for an unsuspended balance of Rs. 8,067. The arrears in the Chhattisgarh Division were collected in full. As regards land revenue not on the roll and miscellaneous land revenue, there is little which calls for comment; the latter shows a decrease of over a lakh which took place mainly in the Nimar District, where the receipts in the previous year were inflated by the sale of malik-sirkar plots. The arrears due from the Mohpani Colliery on account of royalty, referred to in last year's Administration Report, which amounted to Rs. 1,11,382, were realised in full.

18. There were no arrears for the previous year to be realised. The **Berar.** demand on account of fixed collections increased from Rs. 91,21,570 to Rs. 91,28,168, the increase being mainly due to the imposition of the second instalment of the deferred assessments in the Pusad Taluq, and the demand was realised practically in full. Fluctuating collections fell from Rs. 85,959 to Rs. 44,075 and miscellaneous from Rs. 1,68,208 to Rs. 1,15,525. The receipts under the former head were inflated in the preceding year by temporary causes, while the fall under the latter head is due to decreased receipts from fees in connection with the Record-of-Rights owing to the fact that fewer Sub-divisions were dealt with than in 1913-14.

19. In the Central Provinces the number of coercive processes issued **Coercive** showed a considerable increase over the previous year, but hardly more than **processes.** might have been expected in view of the heavy arrears both of Land Revenue and Agricultural Loans which were due for collection and of the moderate outturn of the crops; possibly also the liberal grant of suspensions in the previous years led malguzars to hope that delay in payment would lead to further suspension or remission. In Berar, the conditions of the year with a moderate crop, a low price for cotton and a tight money market, were such that some difficulty might have been expected in the collection of land revenue, but the revenue was collected with very little more trouble than usual; out of 1,156 attachment orders issued, attachment was effected in only 97 cases and sale was actually carried out in 12 cases only, the record for the Buldana District again being particularly satisfactory.

20. The Government Loan Account of the Central Provinces and Berar (Principal) is shown in the following statement. The figures are for the financial year ending the 31st March 1916:—

Statement showing the Loan Account of the Central Provinces and Berar (Principal) for the financial year ending the 31st March 1916.

	Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.		Under the Land Improvement Loans Act.	
	With interest.	Without interest.	With interest.	Without interest.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Outstanding at the commencement of the year, i. e., on the 1st April 1915.	15,74,971 0 10	31 12 9	15,77,358 15 9	..
Remitted during the year 1915-16	306 3 7	...	3,806 9 7	...
Collected do. do.	9,48,581 8 2	17 0 0	3,54,581 8 6	...
Advanced do. do.	5,62,948 4 10	...	1,42,564 13 2	...
Outstanding at the close of the year, i. e., on the 31st March 1916.	11,89,131 9 11	14 12 9	13,61,535 10 10	...

Central Provinces.

21. Advances under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and Land Improvement Loans Act during the revenue year 1914-15 amounted to just over seven and a half lakhs and one lakh, respectively, as compared with nearly thirteen and a half and eight lakhs of rupees in the preceding year. The total demand for collection, including arrears and interest, was nineteen and one-third lakhs. As in the case of land revenue collection a lenient policy was followed, and while fifteen lakhs was realised, four and one-third lakhs was suspended: of the balance, Rs. 3,294 was remitted and a lakh and a half remained overdue. Considering the character of the season, these results were, on the whole, not unsatisfactory. The net result of the year's working was a small profit to Government of Rs. 53,821.

Berar.

22. In Berar, in spite of the scarcity of money, the total amount advanced during the financial year under the two Acts, namely, Rs. 1,23,785, showed a small decrease from last year's figures, but the demand for loans considerably increased after the close of the year. In the trying circumstances of the year it is satisfactory that only one case of misapplication of a loan had to be dealt with. Of the amount due for recovery on account of principal, Rs. 1,04,815, arrears, totalling Rs. 10,450, were allowed to stand over, partly in consideration of the low price of cotton. The net result of the year's working was a small profit to Government of Rs. 9,693.

SURVEYS

2—SURVEYS

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1915.]

23. A programme for sub-traversing the districts of the Province has been drawn up and provides work for some seventeen seasons. A start was made in the Districts of Raipur, Bhandara, Balaghat and Betul, and the sub-traverse of 620 villages was completed. The traverse of the towns of Seoni, Wardha and Kareli was also carried out by the survey party. The Assistant Settlement Officer in charge also supervised the traversing of boundaries between British India and the Rewah State and between various Feudatory States and Zamindaris in Chhattisgarh.

3—SETTLEMENT

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1915 and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1915.]

24. During the year the orders of the Government of India were received on the final report on the settlement of the Damoh District. The forecast reports on the re-settlement of the Seoni and Bhandara Districts were submitted and the sanction of the Government of India to the inception of settlement in both cases was received after the close of the year. Operations were in progress during the year in the following districts :—

Saugor.—The attestation of all villages was completed, Rent-rate Reports for 918 villages were received, and, in spite of special difficulties in the Khurai Tahsil, where land had been withheld from cultivation with a view to obtaining a lenient settlement, 706 villages were assessed. The revised assessment was announced in 584 villages. The Tahsil Assessment Report of the Rehli and Banda Tahsils was received.

Nagpur.—The attestation of the district was completed during the year, the area dealt with including the difficult suburban area round Nagpur Town. Rent-rate Reports were received for 574 villages and 441 villages were assessed, while announcement was made in 349 villages.

Hoshangabad.—The attestation of the remaining 515 villages of the Hoshangabad and Seoni-Malwa Tahsils was completed. Rent-rate Reports for 338 villages and Assessment Reports for 376 villages were received. Map correction was completed.

Chhindwara.—In spite of difficulties, the programme for the year, consisting of the attestation of 477 villages, was completed. Rent-rate Reports for 640 and Assessment Reports for 491 villages were received. The map correction of the Khalsa portion of the district and of 284 villages of the Jagirs was completed.

Balaghat.—Though the re-settlement of the district presents serious difficulties as regards the record of irrigation facilities and the estimate of siwai income, the progress in the first year of the operations was good. Attestation was completed in 453 villages, and Rent-rate Reports for 238 villages and Assessment Reports for 60 villages were received. The map correction of the district was practically completed.

Seoni and Bhandara.—Map correction was carried out in 740 villages of the Seoni District and in 596 villages in the Bhandara District.

4—LAND RECORDS

LAND
RECORDS

[Report on the operations of the Land Records and Settlement Departments in the Central Provinces during the year ending the 30th September 1915 and in Berar during the year ending the 31st July 1915.]

25. The patwari halkabandi of the Chhindwara District was revised, while in the Narsinghpur District five more circles were abolished on the death or dismissal of the incumbents. In the Seoni, Damoh and Wardha Districts the position of patwaris was improved by the introduction of a graded scale. In consequence of the revision of the halkabandi in the Chhindwara District and the creation of the Niwas Tahsil in the Mandla District, the staff of Revenue Inspectors was strengthened by two in each of these districts. The amalgamation of the cadre of Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Land Records with the Subordinate Executive Civil Service was given effect to from the 22nd December 1914, and nine of these officers have since been appointed from the Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars of the regular line. In Berar no additions were made to the strength of the Land Records establishment during the year under report.

Land Records
establishment.

26. Village boundary marks in the Central Provinces were generally maintained in a satisfactory condition. Circle and village note-books were up to date except in districts in which settlement operations and map correction were

Boundary
marks.

in progress. In Berar the condition of boundary marks is less satisfactory and action is being taken to remedy matters. Circle note-books were maintained up to date in all districts.

**Testing of
village papers.**

27. The checking of village papers by Revenue Inspectors was satisfactory in quantity, but the method was not always as thorough as it should be; the supervision exercised by the superior Land Records staff was generally sufficient and proceeded on the right lines. Tahsil staffs paid proper attention to the check of village papers in all but three districts, and the amount of checking done by Deputy Commissioners and their Assistants was generally satisfactory. The annual papers were filed punctually, and village maps were in good condition except in Betul, where the defect is being remedied. In Berar the amount of checking done by the Revenue Inspectors was generally satisfactory and the superior staff checked a proper proportion of their work. The Tahsil staffs in most cases paid fair attention to the supervision of Land Records work and the District Officers, as a whole, did an adequate amount of inspection.

**Record-of-
Rights.**

28. The preparation of the Record-of-Rights in Berar is approaching completion, and it is satisfactory that this heavy task should have been carried out successfully and with little dislocation of other work. During the year the Record-of-Rights was announced in four more taluqs, leaving only eight more to be dealt with. The maintenance of the Record in taluqs previously announced was not as efficient as could be desired, but the matter has received attention and a manual of instructions is being prepared for the purpose.

**Conduct of the
Land Records
staff.**

29. In the Central Provinces the number of punishments inflicted on patwaris again shows a substantial decrease while the number of Revenue Inspectors punished was the same as in the previous year. The conduct and discipline of the superior Land Records staff improved and was favourably reported on in almost all districts. In Berar the maintenance of the Record-of-Rights throws a heavy burden of responsible and difficult work on both Revenue Inspectors and patwaris and one effect has been an increase in the number of punishments inflicted on patwaris. The question of improving the position of these branches of the staff was under consideration. With a few exceptions, the Revenue Inspectors and the superior Land Records staff had a satisfactory record.

**WASTE
LANDS**

5—WASTE LANDS

[Reports on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar for 1914-15]

**Central
Provinces.**

30. The allotment of waste land on ryotwari tenure proceeded steadily. The total area available for allotment at the beginning of the year was 2,60,774 acres, of which 61,756 acres were allotted during the year, while the area relinquished was 49,467 acres. The excess of the area allotted over that relinquished was nearly 6,000 acres less than the average of the past four years, but in no district was there any appreciable decline in the occupied area. The large area relinquished, however, shows that cultivation in these tracts has not yet reached a condition of real stability. The area available for allotment at the close of the year was only 248,485 acres, and its assessment at Re. 0-3-0 per acre indicates that the soil is very poor. Improvement of ryotwari villages was effected by the construction of wells and tanks and, in the Mandla District, by the opening out of communications.

Berar.

31. In Berar the area available for cultivation in Khalsa villages was 29,884 acres and the area newly occupied during the year 2,580 acres, while 213 acres already occupied were relinquished during the year. In the Yeotmal District small isolated blocks of C Class forest were disforested and included in the free grazing area which is managed as village waste.

**GOVERNMENT
ESTATES**

6—GOVERNMENT ESTATES

32. There are no Government Estates in the Central Provinces and Berar.

7—WARDS' ESTATES

[Report on the management by Government of private estates for the year ending the 30th September 1915.]

33. At the beginning of the year there were 74 estates under the management of the Court of Wards. Four estates were newly brought under management during the year and five were relinquished, leaving a balance of 73 at the close of the year. The total area of the 69 estates which remained under management throughout the year and for which statistics have been furnished was 6,763,101 acres. All the five estates relinquished had prospered under the Court of Wards' administration and they were restored to their proprietors with substantial investments and cash balances to their credit to enable them to start afresh the management of their own affairs. **Wards' Estates.**

34. The total gross income of the 69 estates, excluding the opening balance and loans received, amounted to Rs. 20,41,753, including Rs. 8,35,128 on account of rents, Rs. 4,34,301 on account of forests, Rs. 3,36,285 from miscellaneous sources and Rs. 4,35,544 on account of the recovery of advances and debts. The total rental demand, including arrears, was Rs. 9,15,912, of which a sum of Rs. 8,35,128, approximately equal to the total current demand, was collected. As was to be expected, collections were better than in the previous year, when they were seriously affected by the partial crop failure. Suspensions amounted to only Rs. 23,815, but, owing to the large balance left over for collection from the previous year, unsuspended current arrears increased from Rs. 45,437 to Rs. 69,801. Out of the arrear demand of Rs. 1,11,361 outstanding, Rs. 5,656 was remitted and Rs. 60,117 collected, leaving for recovery Rs. 40,785, the greater part of which has subsequently been remitted in view of the recent series of bad years. Forest income declined by Rs. 22,373, the decrease being due to the depression in the trade in forest produce caused by the war. To improve the facilities for the exploitation of the forests, arrangements were made experimentally in the Jubbulpore Division for the export of produce through the recently started Eastern States of Central India Export Trust. Five candidates were deputed from estates for training at the Balaghat Forest School and others are following. Further progress was also made in the preparation of working-plans with the co-operation of District Forest Officers. **Income.**

35. The total gross ordinary expenditure increased by nearly one lakh—from Rs. 11,59,612 to Rs. 12,59,177. The increase was contributed mainly by the Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Divisions and was principally due to the payment of arrears of land revenue and cesses. The incidence of the cost of management for all estates increased from 15 to 16 per cent on the gross income. The personal expenses of the wards were unusually high and were due to the grant of increased allowances for the maintenance of themselves and their families, or larger expenditure on their education or on the marriage of their relatives. Almost all the estates contributed to the War Relief Funds, and the substantial donations of one estate, made at the special request of the ward himself, included a motor ambulance. **Expenditure.**

36. Good progress continued to be made in the liquidation of debts due by encumbered estates. The total amount of debts on all estates at the beginning of the year amounted to Rs. 8,41,127, and additional debts to the extent of Rs. 87,698 were incurred during the year, of which Rs. 76,890 was devoted to consolidating debts. Rs. 1,36,253 was paid off out of current income in addition to Rs. 7,015 obtained from sale of property. The total liabilities outstanding at the end of the year were Rs. 7,07,912. The position is sound in all but six estates. **Debts.**

37. The administration of the Court of Wards throughout the year was satisfactory and steady progress was made in the improvement of estates. The Court of Wards as usual treated its tenants with the utmost consideration and the relations between the Court and tenants were entirely satisfactory. As a result of the return of normal conditions after the previous scarcity, the demand for advances of cash to cultivators fell considerably. Home-farm cultivation was carried on by the Court of Wards in 36 estates. The results were less successful **General.**

than in the previous year, and, excluding cases of exceptional profits in two estates, the outcome varied from a profit of Rs. 8-8-3 to a loss of Rs. 7 per acre, a larger number of estates showing a loss than in the preceding year. This result is attributed to the depression in the cotton market caused by the war and the disappointing nature of the spring harvest. In view of the difficulties attending the supervision of home-farm cultivation under the Court of Wards the general policy now adopted is to cut down such cultivation to a reasonable and compact area, especially in the more remote estates. The education of the minor wards and their relations continued to receive proper attention, and, with a few exceptions, their progress and conduct were on the whole satisfactory. The policy of associating the senior wards or their heirs in the management of estate affairs was maintained, but the results were in some cases not very encouraging.

REVENUE AND
RENT PAYING
CLASSES

8—REVENUE AND RENT PAYING CLASSES

[Resolution on the Revenue Administration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th September 1915 and of Berar for the year ending 31st July 1915]

General
Conditions.
Central
Provinces.

38. The monsoon of 1914 developed normally and was satisfactory everywhere up to the end of August, but weakened in September, especially in the north of the Province, while October was practically rainless. The season was, on the whole, favourable to the kharif crops, but the early cessation of the rain disappointed the hopes of a bumper return, while the dryness of the soil, the deficiency of dew in October and November and the absence of rain till the middle of January in the principal wheat-growing area were distinctly injurious to the prospects of the rabi crops. The showers received at the end of January in the Jubbulpore Division effected a slight improvement, but the heavy rain and hail which fell in the next two months caused considerable damage in many parts.

Berar.

39. In Berar the rainfall was well above the average, but its distribution was unfavourable to agriculturists, as the fall in the first two months was excessive, while it ceased abruptly at the end of September.

40. In the Central Provinces, although the crops of the year gave, on an average over the Province, a normal outturn, the season was one of considerable disappointment. The northern districts which had suffered from scarcity in the previous year reaped a fine kharif harvest, but the rabi crop was spoilt by the dryness of the sowing season and by untimely rain at harvest time. The cotton tracts gathered a fair yield of cotton, but the outbreak of the war enormously reduced the value of the produce, and in Chhattisgarh what was expected to turn out a bumper rice crop was marred by the depredations of the *maho* insect (*Nephotitix bipunctatus*, Fabr.). In other respects, however, the year was a successful one. There was an increase in the area occupied for cultivation both in the malguzari and in the ryotwari areas, amounting in all to 94,163 acres. Cattle disease was less prevalent than usual and, except in the case of cotton very high prices were obtained by cultivators for the produce of the chief staple crops. In Berar the outturn of the principal crops was only 90 per cent of the normal and the area sown with cotton fell by 125,000 acres, partly owing to the heavy early rain and partly to the fall in price, a corresponding increase being made in the area under wheat. There was, however, a small increase of 2,853 acres in the total occupied area. In both the Central Provinces and Berar the year, though not a very healthy one, was free from any widespread epidemic.

41. In the Central Provinces for the cultivating classes the year was a period of recuperation, rather than of complete recovery, from the depletion of agricultural wealth resulting from the previous scarcity, and small cultivators, particularly in the north of the Province, where the stress had been most severe, were unable to shake off entirely the legacy of depression left from the preceding season. Although the high price of grain was favourable to malguzars and substantial tenants in the rice and wheat tracts, they were not in a position to derive the full advantage from these conditions owing to the necessity of replenishing their stocks after the depletion of the previous year, while in the cotton-growing tracts the economic effects of the war, with a temporary fall in the price of cotton to one-third below normal and the general tightness of the money market,

imposed a severe strain on the finances of cultivators. The commercial depression in the cotton country, which is the best market for their fabrics, reduced the weaving communities to severe straits and extensive operations were undertaken for their relief at Nagpur and Burhanpur, their chief centres. Otherwise, the condition of the labouring classes was satisfactory; for, though the prices of food-stuffs ruled high, the demand for labour was keen and wages remained at their normal level. In Berar the salient features of the year were the unusually low prices prevailing for cotton during the early months of the season and the disturbance of the money market caused by the war, resulting in a great scarcity of money and a sharp fall in wages, and in some parts cultivators were compelled to revert to the old practice of paying in kind. On the other hand, the price of *juar*, the staple food-grain, was a little lower than usual, while the price of cotton, largely owing to Japanese demand, rose considerably towards the end of the year and the money market became easier. In these conditions, although the great prosperity enjoyed by the labouring classes in recent years received a set-back, there was nothing of the nature of actual hardship, while the complete ease with which practically the full revenue was punctually collected testifies to the stability of the Berar cultivator. The welfare and convenience of this area are being bettered by the improved communications, and the narrow gauge railway from Murtizapur to Karanja, which was opened during the year, and its subsequent extension to Darwha and Yeotmal, will serve a rich and somewhat inaccessible tract to the south of Berar and add greatly to its prosperity. The marked success of the Ellichpur line leaves no doubt as to the usefulness of these light railways in Berar. In the Central Provinces districts the supply of water and fodder was ample, and in Berar, while the abundant rainfall secured an adequate supply of water, the fodder difficulty was in no way acute.

42. The relations between Government officers and the people remained most satisfactory throughout the Province. The progress of the war has been marked by continuous manifestations of the loyalty of all classes of the people, and calls for subscriptions for the Imperial Indian Relief Fund and for other purposes connected with the war received a ready and liberal response. In the early months of the war a few alarmist rumours were spread abroad by mischief-makers, and in the Damoh District some ill-disposed persons began a series of dacoities, but these were very soon suppressed. The life of the country people being scarcely affected in any way, they know very little of what is going on, but the educated classes in the towns take a keen interest in the war. The activities of the Veterinary and Agricultural Departments continued unabated, and they have completely won the confidence of the people. A most encouraging result of the understanding secured by the Agricultural Department with the cultivating community is the establishment of numerous seed farms for the dissemination of pure and selected seeds either by *malguzars* or by co-operative seed unions, and as these are scattered over a wide area and are rapidly increasing in number, they should very soon begin to have an important effect on the agriculture of the Province. In the agricultural and economic conditions prevailing, the year for the co-operative movement was a period of consolidation rather than of expansion.

43. The total rental demand of the year was Rs. 1,45,22,080 as compared with Rs. 1,43,16,828 in the previous year. The percentage of realisation on account of current demand and arrears was generally satisfactory, especially in the Northern districts, where the crops of the previous year had been poor. The incidence of rents paid by tenants, which varies comparatively little from year to year, was only Re. 0-13-5 per acre as compared with Re. 0-13-0 in 1910-11, and there is little or no change in rental incidence except in districts under settlement. The area included in tenants' holdings showed a further increase of 86,650 acres. The increase was fairly evenly distributed over the four Divisions, the principal increases being in the Mandla and Chanda Districts, where holdings have been steadily extending for the last few years, and in Saugor District, where land withheld from cultivation to avoid assessment at settlement was brought under cultivation at the close of the operations. The area held rent free or in lieu of service has decreased for several years, and there was a sharp fall of nearly 10,000 acres as compared with 1913-14. Tenants.

**REVENUE AND
RENT PAYING
CLASSES****Landlords.**

44. The area held as *sir* land increased by as much as 44 884 acres, while the area of *khudkasht* decreased by 30,585 acres. These changes were confined almost entirely to the districts under settlement. There was no variation in the percentage of the occupied area held by landlords which remained at 18.68 per cent. The profits obtained by *malguzars* from leasing their *sir* land are steadily increasing year by year and the recorded *sub-rents* amounted to Rs. 3-1-0 per acre as compared with Rs. 2-13-0 in the previous year and Rs. 2-5-0 four years ago.

**Landlords
and tenants.
Central
Provinces.**

45. Though the relations between landlords and tenants continued to be on the whole satisfactory, it is clear that there is an increasing tendency on both sides to assert legal rights which have hitherto been allowed to remain in abeyance. This is ascribed partly to an increasing knowledge of the law and partly to economic pressure arising from the growth of population and the extension of cultivation. The majority of the disputes relate to *nistar* and to grazing rights in village waste, while in some districts differences occur over items of the Kotwar's remuneration, and these matters are receiving attention at settlement. Legislation was undertaken providing for the restriction of the alienation of land by cultivators of the aboriginal tribes in tracts where their numbers are of importance and where there is a tendency for them to lose ground as proprietors of villages, and the Land Alienation Bill dealing with this subject was passed after the close of the year. The Land Revenue Bill was placed before the Legislative Council during the year and was considered by a Select Committee to which it was referred.

Berar.

46. In Berar there was little change in the relations between the various classes of the agricultural population. The Tenancy Bill referred to in the Administration Report of the previous year remained under consideration during the year.

CHAPTER III

P R O T E C T I O N

1—LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

47. Since the constitution of the Council the following changes occurred in the *personnel* of the official members of the Legislative Council of the Central Provinces :—

Legislative
Council.

The Hon'ble Mr. F. S. A. Slocock, C.I.E., I.C.S., *vice* the Hon'ble Sir Arthur Blennerhassett, Bart, I.C.S., deceased.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. Hullah, I.C.S., *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Leftwich, I.C.S., resigned.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. C. S. Clark, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. R. H. Tickell, C.I.E., resigned.

The Hon'ble Mr. R. C. H. M. King, I.C.S., *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. H. Spence, resigned.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. E. W. Jones, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. A. I. Mayhew, resigned.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. Mayne, I.C.S., who had been appointed as an expert member in connection with the Excise Bill, resigned his seat when that Bill was passed. In his place the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. Hemingway, I.C.S., Commissioner of Settlements and Director of Land Records, was appointed as an expert member in connection with the Land Revenue Bill, and on his transfer and resignation, his successor, the Hon'ble Mr. P. Hemingway, I.C.S., was appointed in his place.

2—COURSE OF LEGISLATION

COURSE OF LEGISLATION

48. During the year under report the Legislative Council of the Central Provinces held meetings on the 25th and 26th August 1915 and on the 9th, 13th and 14th March 1916. Of the Bills which were introduced in the Council during the previous year, the Excise Bill, the Vaccination Law Amendment Bill and the Slaughter of Animals Bill were passed in 1915-16. The Land Revenue Bill and the Tenancy Amendment Bill were under discussion. The reports of the Select Committees on these Bills were presented to the Council on the 9th March 1916.

Bills
introduced
in Council.

49. The following new Bills were introduced during the year 1915-16 :—

The Central Provinces Medical Registration Bill—on the 26th August 1915.

The Central Provinces Land Alienation Bill—on the 9th March 1916.

The former, which has been framed on the lines of similar Bills introduced and passed in other Provinces, has for its object the protection of the public and the medical profession from irregularly qualified practitioners whose training in medicine has been obtained at unrecognised institutions, as well as the provision of facilities for ascertaining whether a medical practitioner possesses recognised qualifications. The object of the Land Alienation Bill is to retain certain classes of agriculturists on the land and to check the tendency in certain tracts to displace aboriginal agriculturists from the land. The members of these classes, being ignorant and in many cases impoverished, are at a disadvantage in dealing with their creditors, who are not infrequently professional money-lenders non-resident in the tract, and the Bill is designed to minimise the evils arising from this state of affairs.

50. The following Acts and Ordinances were applied to Berar during the year by the Notifications specified against each :—

- (1) The Foreigners (Amendment) Act (III of 1915), by Foreign Department Notification No. 393-I. B., dated the 9th April 1915.
- (2) The Defence of India (Criminal Law Amendment) Act (IV of 1915), by Foreign Department Notification No. 394-I. B., dated the 9th April 1915.
- (3) Indian Soldiers (Litigation) Ordinance (Ordinance No. II of 1915), by Notification No. 852-I. B., dated the 20th May 1915.
- (4) The Central Provinces Excise Act (Central Provinces Act II of 1915), by Foreign Department Notification No. 1746-I. B., dated the 11th August 1915.
- (5) The Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act (VI of 1886), by Foreign Department Notification No. 2465-I. B., dated the 31st October 1915.
- (6) Indian Soldiers (Litigation) Act (XII of 1915), by Foreign Department Notification No. 179-D, dated the 19th November 1915.
- (7) The Defence of India Ordinance, 1915 (III of 1915), by Foreign Department Notification No. 331-D, dated the 3rd December 1915.
- (8) The Defence of India Amendment, Act (II of 1916), by Foreign Department Notification No. 784-D, dated the 24th February 1916.
- (9) The Foreigners (Trial by Court-martial) Ordinance (III of 1916), by Foreign Department Notification No. 111-D, dated the 17th March 1916.

POLICE

3—POLICE

[Report on the Police Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1915, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

Crime, General.

51. The volume of crime exceeded that of the previous year by more than 8 per cent, and the figures for the year were the highest on record since the famine of 1900. The explanation is to be found in the conditions of the year, the chief factors in the situation being high prices, the shortage of money, the prevalence of plague in nearly every district, which involved the evacuation of villages and towns, and the continued improvement in reporting and registration. The total number of cases of reported crime rose from the previous year's figure 38,974 to 42,046. This large increase was mainly under house-breakings and thefts, the classes of crime most likely to be affected by the conditions of the year. The relations between the police and the people continued to improve, and public confidence in the Department is steadily growing.

Offences against the State, the person and property.

52. The number of offences against the State fell to 351 from 413 in the previous year. There were only two cases of offences involving the actual manufacture of coin. The number of riots fell by more than 12 per cent from the previous year's total. Murders numbered 242, practically the same as in the previous year, but the decrease in the number of child-murders was a satisfactory feature. Dacoities increased by more than 60 per cent. Of the total number (89), the Berar Division accounted for 32 and the Damoh District for 25; of the latter, all but one belonged to the series which was referred to in the last Report, and the outbreak was finally crushed half way through the year. The number of arson cases increased by 27 per cent; this figure probably includes accidental fires, but as the majority of cases were those of the firing of houses vacated on account of plague, it is probable that many of the fires were started intentionally with the object of destroying evidence of house-breaking. There was a rise of nearly 25 per cent in the number of cases of house-breaking, and, on the whole, judging by the number of convictions, the police were not very successful in dealing with this form of crime, this unsatisfactory result being attributed in part to the inadequacy of the investigating staff.

Police action.

53. The steady improvement maintained in methods of investigation and in intelligence on the part of the staff received the recognition of the Administration in its review of the year's work. The discretion vested in police officers in the matter of undertaking or refusing the investigation of reports was on the whole

correctly exercised. Though trivial cases are still prosecuted, and there is still a tendency to adopt a mechanical standard, such as the money-value of a case, for gauging the conditions necessary for investigation, while discretion is sometimes influenced by the chances of detection, there are indications that generally the position in regard to statistics is becoming better understood. Under the preventive provisions of the law, action was freely taken to prevent breaches of the peace, and the fall in recent years in the number of offences against the public tranquillity may be partly attributed to the wider use of these powers. There was considerable improvement in the preparation and conduct of bad-livelihood cases, and in the selection of persons against whom such cases were directed. In the matter of surveillance, though much still remains to be done, there were signs of some improvement in methods, and to ensure further success the Administration laid stress on the necessity of securing the co-operation of village officials and of impressing on them their responsibilities in this branch of preventive action.

The standard of education of the students under training at the Saugor Training College was above the average, and their conduct, discipline and drill were excellent; the examination results were exceptionally creditable, all the probationers at the end of the course appearing and passing the final examination. An increase of 25 in the number of probationers was sanctioned at the close of the year with a view to filling up the vacancies in the investigation staff, and an extra post of Sub-Inspector was sanctioned for the staff of the School. It is still very difficult to obtain satisfactory local candidates to enter the School as Probationary Sub-Inspectors and the best material for recruiting the investigating ranks has to be drawn from outside the Province.

The Criminal Investigation Department did good work in spite of the pressure on its activities during the year, and the services of its officers are being more sought after and more appreciated. More frequent use was made of that very valuable aid to police work, the Finger-Print Bureau, though there appears still to be room for a freer utilisation by district police officers of its facilities for search and record. The Railway Police is now responsible for a total length of line amounting to nearly 3,000 miles and the staff was strengthened during the year; the improvement in the efficiency of the force was well maintained. The instruction of members of the force in First Aid continued but the numbers trained were fewer than in the previous year. A class for the instruction of police officers in the identification of foot-prints was also held during the year.

54. There are no rural police in the Central Provinces. Forces of **Rural and Punitive Police.** were imposed on six villages, *viz.* Niwari and Nakti Piparia in the Seoni District, Markawai in the Chhindwara District, Bamhni in the Narsinghpur District, Karmanda in the Raipur District, and Gubrel in the Betul District.

55. The strength of the force was increased by the addition of one **Establishment.** Inspector, ten Sub-Inspectors and seven Head Constables to the Railway Police to bring the force up to the minimum strength required to cope with the increased work involved by railway extensions. The total annual cost of the force rose from Rs. 34,12,167 to Rs. 34,90,880. Practically all gazetted officers were on duty throughout the year, and this, with the consequent extra expenditure under Contingencies and Travelling Allowance, together with the cost of additions to the establishment, accounts for the increase. Owing to want of funds no further progress could be made towards the completion of the scheme for the improvement of the pay of Head Constables, which was partially introduced in the previous year. In the rank and file, although there was an improvement in the figures of recruitment, especially of local men, and a slight decrease in the number of resignations and desertions, the number of vacancies is high, and in order to maintain the force at its existing strength it has been necessary to lower the standards all round. A scheme for the reorganisation of the subordinate staff has been submitted to the Government of India, which, if sanctioned, is calculated to give a considerable improvement in their pay and prospects and to attract men of a better class to enlist in the police. The number of deaths in the force continued to rise slightly and stood at 131 against 122 in the previous year; the percentage of admissions to hospital also rose from 65 to 68.

POLICE**Miscellaneous.**

56. In spite of the difficulties alluded to in the preceding paragraph, discipline on the whole was well maintained, and this result was secured with a smaller number of punishments. The number of officers punished fell from 126 to 82, of whom three were dismissed; no officer was punished judicially. There was a satisfactory decrease of 141 in the total number of men punished. The number of rewards other than by promotion rose from 3,103 to 3,691, and the amount of cash rewards paid departmentally also increased from Rs. 10,135 to Rs. 13,283. Owing to the general curtailment of expenditure in consequence of the war, the police building programme advanced more slowly than in previous years, and the allotment sanctioned was less than three and a half lakhs of rupees; good progress, however, was made with works already in hand.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE**4—CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

[Report on the Judicial Administration of the Central Provinces and Berar, 1915 and 1916, Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

Crime.

57. The number of offences reported during the year was 38,508 the lowest figure since 1911, and the total number of offences reported to the Courts fell from 43,096 in the previous year to 40,246, a decrease of 8.5 per cent. The number of such cases found to be true fell from 32,383 to 30,070, a decrease of 7.1 per cent. The decrease in the number of offences reported as in the previous year, was mainly under complaint cases relating to hurt and assault and is explained by the conditions prevailing in the earlier part of the year, which were such as to discourage expenditure on petty criminal litigation. The number of cases dismissed under Section 203, Criminal Procedure Code, fell from 9,017 to 7,944. The offences reported during the year under the Indian Penal Code numbered 28,450 as against 30,943 in the previous year. No offences against the State under Chapter VI or VII occurred, but offences affecting life increased from 478 in 1914 to 500 the highest figure since 1909. Offences against property numbered 8,702, a decrease of 12.5 from the previous year. The number of offences against the public tranquillity decreased to 385, the lowest figure since 1911 this result being attributed in part to the wider use of the provisions of Sections 107 and 145, Criminal Procedure Code. Offences relating to marriage, defamation and criminal intimidation also were fewer than in any of the preceding four years. Offences under Special and Local Laws showed a marked decline from 11,246 to 10,058, the decrease, which was mainly in cases under the Municipal Law, being attributed to greater resort to the power of compounding offences and to the evacuation of some of the large Municipal centres owing to outbreaks of plague. The number of cases under the Workman's Breach of Contract Act, though less than in 1914, remained high, but Railway offences showed a decided decrease as compared with the previous year, which may be accounted for by the vigilance of the Railway officials in the past. The activity of the local branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals accounts for the continued increase in the number of cases under Act XI of 1890. The number of proceedings under Section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, increased from 350 to 368, though the proportion of persons discharged in these cases is high; proceedings under Sections 109 and 110 fell from 488 to 474, while there was an increase of 20 in cases under Section 145 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Action was taken against one person under Section 108 of the Code for delivering seditious lectures in the Amraoti District, but doubt was raised as to the sanity of the offender. No cases occurred requiring recourse to the provisions of the Indian Press Act, the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act or the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act.

Courts of Original Jurisdiction.

58. The strength of the Magistracy rose from 554 to 565. The number of persons tried by District Magistrates rose from 235 to 349, nearly the same as in 1913, and of those brought before Courts of Sessions from 462 to 588. The number of persons tried by Stipendiary Magistrates fell from 37,260 to 36,473. The number of persons accused before

Honorary and Special Magistrates numbered 15,917 and 570 as compared with 18,424 and 639 in the previous year. The percentage of cases disposed of by the various classes of Magistrates was—District Magistrates 5, other Stipendiary Magistrates 72.0, Honorary Magistrates 26.1, and Special Magistrates 1.4, practically the same as in the previous year. The number of cases disposed of summarily fell from 3,993 to 3,243 and the percentage on the total number of cases from 12.6 to 11.0; the decline is accounted for mainly by the decrease in petty offences under the Indian Penal Code and in cases under the Municipal and Police Acts. The proportion of persons convicted to the total number of persons whose cases were disposed of was 41.4, practically the same as in 1914. The number of persons released on probation of good conduct under Section 562, Criminal Procedure Code, was 828 as against 777 in 1914.

59. The number of cases disposed of during the year decreased from 31,908 to 29,811 and the average duration in all Courts fell from 19.0 days to 18.5. There was a satisfactory decline in the average duration of Police cases in the Central Provinces from 20.3 to 18.7 and in Berar from 21.5 to 20.1. In complaint cases, on the other hand, the average duration rose slightly from 17.1 days to 17.6. **The despatch of business.**

60. The year was marked by an increase in important crime entailing extra work on the higher tribunals, similar to that in 1913. The number of cases disposed of by Sessions Courts was 292 against 232 in 1914, the rise being confined to the Nagpur, Jubbulpore and Chhattisgarh Divisions. The percentage of convictions was 64.2 against 72.2, and the average duration of cases was 55.1 days as compared with 56.7 in the previous year. **Sessions Courts.**

61. The strength of the Judicial Commissioner's Court was increased by the permanent addition of a fourth Judge. The number of convicted persons whose appeals were disposed of by the Court of the Judicial Commissioner rose again from 412 to 474. In 88.5 per cent of the cases the finding and in 77.9 per cent both the finding and sentence of the lower Court were maintained, an increase of 1.9 and 6.6 per cent, respectively, over the previous year. The number of persons whose cases were dealt with in revision was 571 against 597 in 1914; the sentence was enhanced in 14 cases and either reduced or set aside in 125. The number of references for the confirmation of death sentences disposed of by Benches of two Judges was 69, the highest figure in the last 5 years, as against 58 in 1914; there was no case in which the Judges constituting these Benches disagreed. The Court dealt with four cases, involving six persons, in which the Local Administration appealed against orders of acquittal, as compared with eight cases, involving nine persons, in the previous year. In three cases the acquittals were reversed and the accused convicted and sentenced, while in the fourth a retrial was ordered. The number of persons whose appeals were before the Sessions Courts declined from 2,015 to 1,856 and those before District Magistrates and Subordinate Magistrates empowered to hear appeals from 3,522 to 3,128. The average duration of appeals in Sessions Courts improved from 20.4 days to 19.8 and in Magistrates' Courts from 18.8 to 17.3. The percentage of appellants whose sentences were unchanged was 75.5 in the Session Courts and 58.5 in Magistrates' Courts against 72.3 and 58.4, respectively, in the previous year. The appeals of 1,730 persons were dismissed summarily in 1915 as against 1,940 in 1914; in the Sessions Courts nearly 50 per cent of the total number of appeals were so disposed of. **Appellate and Revisional Jurisdiction.**

62. The percentages of persons sentenced to imprisonment with or without other punishment, to fine only, and to whipping only were 25.2, 70.3 and 4.5 as compared with 22.9, 73.7 and 3.4 in 1914. The percentage of whippings to sentences in cases in which whipping might have been awarded rose from 23.6 to 27.5. The number of persons sentenced to death rose from 28 to 50 and of persons sentenced to transportation from 121 to 124. The number of sentences of 15 days' imprisonment and under fell from 111 to 85, the lowest figure in the last 5 years. Sentences on previously convicted offenders fell from 733 to 721. The number of persons sentenced to fine fell from 15,471 to 13,628 and the total **Punishments.**

amount of fines imposed from Rs. 2,39,084 to Rs. 1,95,890, the percentage of realisations being 89·1 as against 91·7 in the previous year. The amount written off as unrealisable fell from Rs. 14,560 to Rs. 10,881. The balance outstanding at the end of the year increased from Rs. 17,259 to Rs. 20,348. The number of boys sent to the Reformatory School was 10 as against 14 in each of the two previous years.

PRISONS

5—PRISONS

[Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1915, Part Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract]

General.

63. The classification and number of Jails remained the same as in the previous year; there were three Central Jails, sixteen District Jails and three Subsidiary Jails. The policy of reducing small District Jails to the status of Subsidiary Jails is being extended and the reduction of three more District Jails has been sanctioned. The Jail for adolescents at Narsinghpur, which is being worked on a modified Borstal System, made steady progress.

Jail population.

64. The number of prisoners admitted to Jail, excluding transfers from other Jails, rose from 10,175 in 1914 to 10,815, the increase being in part due to the large admissions of undertrial prisoners in Damoh, where there was a serious outbreak of dacoities. The daily average strength of the Jail population, 4,136·18, was higher than it has been for the last three years. There was an increase from 776 in the previous year to 851 in the number of previously convicted persons admitted to Jail, and the proportion of such convicts to the total admissions rose from 16·16 to 17·39. The experiment, begun in 1907, of employing released habituals in the Government Press is being continued, but it has not proved altogether a success. Useful work in the same direction is done on a small scale by the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society at Raipur. The decrease in the number of juveniles under 16 years of age admitted to Jail from 20 in 1914 to 14 in 1915 is satisfactory, considering the increase in the total Jail population. Five children of 15 years of age and under who had been sentenced to imprisonment were transferred to the Jubbulpore Reformatory School.

Jail discipline.

65. There were three escapes of convicts during the year as compared with ten in the previous year, all were from outside the Jail and none of them were due to serious negligence on the part of Jail officials. In each case the fugitive was recaptured. In addition to these, an undertrial prisoner in the Saugor Jail effected his escape. Five attempts at escape were frustrated by the alertness of the Jail authorities. A most satisfactory feature was the marked decrease in the number of Jail offences which fell from 15,527 to 15,007, in spite of the increase in the Jail population. The decrease extends over almost all classes of offences except offences relating to prohibited articles, in which a small increase is attributed to stricter search of prisoners. The decline in the number of offences was accompanied by a decrease in the total number of punishments awarded. The number of offences dealt with by Criminal Courts decreased by 3 to 19 and the number of cases in which corporal punishment was awarded from 35 to 21; nearly half of these punishments occurred in the Nagpur Central Jail and the majority were in connection with assault, persistent refusal to work and insubordinate conduct.

Health.

66. The improvement in the health of the prisoners, which has been a satisfactory feature of the reports in recent years, received a check during the year under report, the death rate per *mille* being 18·86 against 12·48 in 1914 and 13·39 in 1913. The increase was most noticeable in the Central Jails at Jubbulpore and Nagpur, the number of deaths in the former being 14 against 2 in the previous year, while in Nagpur the number rose from 12 to 28. In view of the set-back elsewhere, the continued improvement in the health of the Raipur Central Jail was particularly satisfactory, admissions to hospitals from dysentery decreasing from 37 to 30, though one death occurred.

Jail Industries.

67. The industries carried on in Jails remained the same as in the previous year. The Printing Press and the Quinine Factory at the Nagpur Central Jail continued to work efficiently, and the paper-making industry served a useful purpose.

by saving Government offices over Rs. 6,000 in the purchase of stationery. The Jubbulpore Central Jail continued to furnish the Supply and Transport Department with cotton manufactures on a large scale and was able to meet promptly all demands made upon it. The total sum drawn from the Treasury on manufacturing account in Central and District Jails amounted to Rs. 2,23,989 as compared with Rs. 2,41,059 in 1914, and the amount paid into the Treasury was Rs. 2,06,789 as against Rs. 3,04,614 in 1914. There was thus a nominal loss in 1915 of Rs. 17,200, but that figure does not take into account stocks in hand at the close of the year. The deficit is due to the higher prices paid for raw materials and the falling off in indents for manufactured goods. Convicts employed daily on Jail factories numbered 1,565 as against 1,558 in 1914, the proportion to the average population sentenced to labour being 42 per cent as compared with 45 per cent in 1914. Garden and agricultural produce raised by Jail cultivation resulted in a saving to Government of Rs. 7,248; the daily average of prisoners employed in cultivation was approximately 329. Buildings and repairs in Jails employed a daily average of 276 prisoners and the value of their labour was Rs. 2,877.

68. The total expenditure incurred in guarding and maintaining prisoners during the year was Rs. 4,11,136, almost the same as in the previous year, an increase under dietary charges being compensated by a decrease in hospital and clothing and bedding charges. Though the average cost per head of average strength fell from Rs. 106-15-1 to Rs. 99-6-5, or by Rs. 7-8-8, on account of the increase in the Jail population, the net cost per head of average strength shows an increase of Rs. 9 owing to the falling off in the profits from the sale of Jail manufactures. The average profit per head of the number sentenced to labour was Rs. 17-15-3 against Rs. 16-8-8 in 1914. The savings effected to Government by the employment of prison labour amounted to Rs. 88,499 as compared with Rs. 1,14,237 in 1914.

**Cost of Jail
administration**

6—CIVIL JUSTICE

**CIVIL
JUSTICE**

[Report on the Judicial Administration (Civil) of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1915, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

69. The post of fourth Judge in the Judicial Commissioner's Court, which was originally sanctioned as a temporary measure, was made permanent during the year 1915. There was no change in the number of District Judges, but Additional District Judges increased by one, the Subordinate Judge, Khamgaon, having been invested with appellate powers, while the number of Subordinate Judges decreased by two owing to the abolition of the post at Khamgaon and that of the Additional Sub-Judge at Raipur. There was no change in the total number of Munsiffs; the Courts of the Additional Munsiffs at Malkapur and Basim and of the second Munsiff at Chhindwara were closed, but Courts of Additional Munsiffs were opened at Raipur, Khamgaon and Bhandara. The Bhandara-Balaghat Civil District, which had been transferred to the Chhattisgarh Division in 1914, was retransferred to the Nagpur Division and made into a separate charge under an Additional Divisional and Sessions Judge. The total number of suits instituted rose from 97,622, the abnormally low figure of 1914, when litigation was depressed by unfavourable agricultural and financial conditions, to 110,502, the highest figure in the last four years. The increase, which was general practically throughout the Province, was contributed by suits for money, movable property and arrears of rent, while the number of suits for immovable property and of other suits, except mortgage suits, fell. These variations in litigation are explained by the agricultural conditions, a bad year in 1914, with an increase of indebtedness and a postponement of the institution of suits, being followed by an improvement in 1915, and in the cotton-growing districts these conditions were accentuated by the effects of the war.

**Tribunals and
character of
litigation.**

The total value of suits instituted rose from Rs. 1,97,73,457 to Rs. 2,18,15,825. The average value of suits in the Central Provinces remained almost stationary (Rs. 163 as against Rs. 166 in the previous year), but in Berar it fell from Rs. 314 to Rs. 292. The number of Courts exercising the powers of a Small Cause Court remained the same as at the close of 1914; three District Judges, 22 Subordinate Judges and 29 Munsiffs were exercising

these powers, while the powers exercised by four Subordinate Judges and one Munsiff were enhanced. Suits tried by this procedure rose in number from 50,367 to 61,448 and in value from Rs. 40,27,136 to Rs. 51,64,592, so that no less than 70·4 per cent of suits for money and movables were tried by this procedure. The percentage of suits disposed of by Munsiffs fell from 43·7 to 42·1, while that of suits decided by Small Cause Courts rose from 50·0 to 52·2. There was a slight decrease in the percentage of cases disposed of by District Judges and Subordinate Judges, which was due to the extension of the pecuniary jurisdiction of lower Courts.

Pending files.

70. The pending files increased in all but two districts, and the total number pending at the close of the year was 17,008 in the Central Provinces and 9,186 in Berar, an increase altogether of 3,458 over last year's figures. This general increase is explained by the rush of institutions towards the close of the year, while in West Berar, which shows the greatest increase, an outbreak of plague necessitated the closing of the Courts in the last quarter of the year. On the other hand, the number of suits pending over six months was appreciably reduced. The average duration of both contested and uncontested cases showed a decrease except in the Small Cause Courts in the Central Provinces, though the figures for Berar are still high in comparison with the Central Provinces. The improvement is in a large measure due to the increased efficiency and punctuality of the Courts. The proportion of contested suits dropped from 30·3 in 1914 to 28·7 in 1915.

Execution of decrees.

71. There was an appreciable increase in the number of applications for execution, from 122,471 in 1914 to 127,385. Disposals increased also, but not in the same proportion, and the pending file of 25,277 cases is the heaviest since 1911; the increase is contributed almost wholly by the Central Provinces and is due to the heavy institutions towards the close of the year. The amount realised also increased from Rs. 23,55,573 to Rs. 23,98,919. The number of applications which were wholly infructuous rose from 51,866 to 53,423 and the percentage of such applications to the number disposed of from 51·9 to 52·4.

Appellate litigation.

72. There was a slight decrease in the institution of appeals in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner; 1,476 appeals, regular and miscellaneous, were preferred as against 1,524 in 1914. Disposals of first and second appeals rose from 1,064 to 1,298, but the pending file increased from 1,403 to 1,493 and the average duration from 316·3 days to 370·9. Applications for revision fell slightly to 447, while disposals increased from 400 to 454. There was a considerable increase in the number of references disposed of by a Bench. There was a substantial decrease in appellate work of Divisional Judges. The number of appeals, regular and miscellaneous, instituted before Divisional Judges declined from 807 to 643 and appeals disposed of from 646 to 478, the total pending file rising by two to 163, of which 51 cases belonged to the Jubbulpore Division, where institutions increased and the Criminal file was heavy. The pending file of the Nagpur Division was further reduced to 70 cases. The average duration of regular appeals showed considerable improvement in all Divisions except Chhattisgarh. Institutions in District Judges' Courts, inclusive of the Courts of Subordinate Judges gazetted with the powers of a District Judge, fell from 3,782 to 3,660 and disposals from 3,800 to 3,661, the pending file standing at 667 as against 670 in the previous year. Institutions in Berar rose from 1,703 to 1,807 and disposals from 1,838 to 1,923, the pending file improving from 805 to 689. The average duration of regular appeals was 71·1 days in the Central Provinces and 172·8 in Berar.

Miscellaneous.

73. Two of the three posts of District Judge in the Central Provinces reserved for members of the Indian Civil Service were held by members of that service throughout the year. The post of Additional District and Sessions Judge in Berar reserved for the Indian Civil Service was held by a member of that service except for a short period when no officer was available and a member of the Provincial Service was appointed. Two posts of Additional Subordinate Judge at Nagpur and Raipur were also held for part of the year by members of the Indian Civil Service. During the year the sanction of the Secretary of State was received to the reorganization of the Judicial Service, but the complete

introduction of the scheme had to be postponed for financial reasons. The part of the scheme which relates to the improvement of the scale of the pay of Munsiffs was brought into operation. The improvement in the scale of pay for process-servers brought into effect in 1912 has resulted in an improvement in the personnel, though cases of misappropriation still occur. The copying department has reached a fair standard of efficiency as a result of the revision of establishment in recent years. Much progress has been made in carrying out the building programme of the Judicial Department, and only three buildings on the original programme remain to be constructed—the Munsiffis at Lakhnadon and Saoner and the Court-house at Badnur, work on which had to be postponed on account of the reduction in expenditure due to the war.

7—REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION

[Report on the working of the Registration Department in the Central Provinces and Berar during the calendar year 1915, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

74. The volume of registration business, which decreased in the closing months of 1914 owing to the effects produced by the outbreak of war, declined still further during the first eight months of the year under report, and in that period, as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, registrations fell by 18 per cent for the Province as a whole. Later in the year, with the brightening of the money market, the recovery in the price of cotton and favourable crop prospects, business improved, and in the last four months, as compared with the corresponding months of 1914, the number of registrations increased by 14 per cent. The areas most affected by the conditions of the year were the more industrially advanced localities and the cotton-producing tracts, and, while the total number of registrations in the Central Provinces, where there is a greater variety of crops, declined by only 2 per cent, the decline in Berar, where the cotton crop is of paramount importance, amounted to 21 per cent. The total number of registrations in the Province as a whole fell from 92,601 to 80,553, a decrease of 13 per cent, while the aggregate value of the property affected fell from 566 to 458 lakhs or by 19 per cent; the latter would have exhibited a larger decline but for the registration of documents of exceptionally high value in several districts. Taking the two areas separately, the decrease in the Central Provinces is confined to compulsory registrations affecting immovable property, wills and authorities to adopt. In Berar the decrease is common to all classes of documents except registrations affecting movable property and is most marked in the case of leases other than perpetual leases, sales of immovable property and mortgages. Compulsory registrations affecting immovable property declined by 2 per cent in the Central Provinces and by 22 per cent in Berar, resulting in a fall of 15 per cent for the Province as a whole. Gifts rose slightly in the Central Provinces owing to a number of gifts of land by malguzars in one district for public purposes. Optional registrations relating to immovable property declined in number by 3 per cent for the combined area, while the aggregate value fell by 13 per cent. Registrations affecting movable property rose by 4 per cent, but the value declined by 10 per cent. The number of orders filed under the Land Improvement Loans Act decreased from 1,044 to 803, while under the Agriculturists' Loans Act the number of orders rose from 618 to 640. As regards transfers of agricultural holdings, sale-deeds of land held in proprietary right increased from 1,162 to 1,271, while sales of villages and shares rose from 1,443 to 1,575, though the area transferred and the revenue assessed on it decreased. Seventy-three per cent of these sales were in favour of agriculturists. Mortgages of proprietary rights decreased from 1,614 to 1,552. The number of villages and shares mortgaged rose slightly from 2,339 to 2,359. Sixty-two per cent of these mortgages were in favour of non-agriculturists. Sale-deeds of malik-makbuza plots and absolute-occupancy holdings rose from 3,474 to 3,627, and of the area transferred 63 per cent went to agriculturists, while mortgages of these classes of plots and holdings rose slightly and 63 per cent of the area was mortgaged to non-agriculturists. The total income of the Department declined from Rs. 4,03,067 to Rs. 3,42,090, or by 15 per cent. Expenditure fell from Rs. 1,32,152 to Rs. 1,24,302, or by 6 per cent. The percentage of expenditure to receipts was 36 as against 33 in the previous two years.

8—MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

¹Resolution on the working of the Municipal Committees of the Central Provinces and Berar, 1915-16, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.

Number and constitution of Municipalities.

75. There was no change during the year in the number of Municipalities, but there were some changes in constitution; in Nagpur a new Committee came into existence under revised election rules and the number of elected members was increased by four, while in the Arvi Municipality three and in Bilaspur two elected members were added to the strength of the Committee. All Municipal Committees except Chhota Chhindwara held the prescribed number of meetings. The attendance at the meetings, with a few exceptions, was generally satisfactory in the Central Provinces, but was disappointing in Amraoti Town and Akola in Berar. The system of triennial elections was adopted throughout the Central Provinces during the year, but in Berar the system of retirement of members by rotation continues. The amount of interest taken in elections varied greatly from place to place and even within the same centres.

Income.

76. The total income of all Municipalities excluding extraordinary receipts and debt, was Rs. 32,90,763, as compared with Rs. 33,09,175 in 1914-15, but, if Government contributions be excluded, the real income from Municipal resources was Rs. 27,84,564 against Rs. 26,55,151. The increase was mainly under the head "Octroi" and water-rate; the net receipts from octroi were nearly Rs. 42,000 more than in the previous year owing to the recovery in trade. The income from taxes other than octroi rose by about Rs. 85,000, which was largely due to the realisation of outstanding arrears of water-rate and conservancy taxes. The all-round incidence of Municipal taxation per head of population rose in the Central Provinces from Rs. 2-0-3 to Rs. 2-5-2, while in Berar the figure remained practically the same, namely, Rs. 1-9-3, as compared with Rs. 1-9-2 in the previous year. Realisations under special Acts amounted to Rs. 1,16,000, representing, as in the previous year, 4 per cent of the total Municipal income, while revenue derived from Municipal property and institutions amounted to Rs. 5,71,000, an increase of Rs. 34,000. Government contributions amounted to Rs. 5,06,199 as against Rs. 6,54,024 in the previous year and made up about 15 per cent of the total Municipal income; the decrease was due to the withholding, owing to financial stringency, of a sum of over two lakhs of grants earmarked for sanitary purposes in 1915-16. Nearly three-fourths of the total contributions consisted of grants for sanitary works, and included grants of Rs. 1,70,000 to the Nagpur and Harda Municipalities for drainage schemes and Rs. 1,93,308 to Akola, Damoh, Buldana, Arvi and Seoni for water-supply projects. Grants for educational purposes amounted to Rs. 94,796 against Rs. 1,89,347 in 1914-15, the latter figure including special grants of Rs. 1,14,600 for primary school buildings.

Expenditure.

77. The opening balance of all Municipalities at the beginning of the year was Rs. 11,72,984; receipts amounted to Rs. 39,57,227 and disbursements to Rs. 40,36,600, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 10,93,611, or about Rs. 80,000 less than at the end of the previous year. The minimum balances fixed for Municipalities were revised during the year to meet local requirements, and the closing balances at the end of the year were well above the prescribed minima in all but three towns; in some Municipalities balances were accumulated for special objects. Excluding debt and extraordinary expenditure, the actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 36,44,486 against Rs. 36,59,336 in 1914-15. The capital outlay on water-supply was Rs. 3,64,597 against Rs. 3,92,156 in the previous year. The capital expenditure on drainage amounted to Rs. 3,21,023, as compared with Rs. 3,19,400 in the previous year; a sum of about 2½ lakhs of rupees was spent on the Nagpur drainage scheme. The expenditure on conservancy and sanitation amounted to Rs. 6,25,603, an increase of Rs. 15,581. No new improvement schemes were taken up during the year, although in many Municipalities schemes for water-supply, drainage and town improvement were under consideration or were kept in abeyance till the advent of more prosperous times. A town-planning exhibition held at Nagpur, the cost of which was met by Government, was attended by representatives of all Municipal Committees and

stimulated interest in the subject. The expenditure on Education rose from Rs. 4,27,672 to Rs. 5,11,863, but the increase was largely due to expenditure from Government contributions for the improvement of school buildings.

78. At the close of the year eighteen Municipalities were indebted to Government on account of loans granted to them. The amount advanced during the year was Rs. 3,87,000, an increase of Rs. 1,20,000. Sums of half a lakh of rupees were advanced to the Nagpur Municipality as a sixth instalment of a loan of 8 lakhs and to the Harda Municipality as the second instalment of a loan of a lakh for drainage schemes and Rs. 49,000 to the Arvi Municipality as a second instalment for a water-works scheme. Other advances made during the year were sums of Rs. 1,60,000 and Rs. 75,000 to the Akola and Damoh Municipalities, respectively, for water-works schemes. The total balance outstanding at the close of the year on account of loans was Rs. 26,69,762 against Rs. 24,13,422 in the previous year; of this sum Nagpur was responsible for Rs. 13,79,437 and Jubbulpore for Rs. 3,56,006. The finances of all Municipalities which had taken loans were in a satisfactory condition.

9—DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS

[Resolution on the working of the District Councils and Local Boards of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1915-16, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract]

79. There was no change in the number of District Councils and Local Boards or in the number of members, but in Berar eight seats reserved for elected members were filled by nomination, because the electors failed to elect the prescribed number of members. All District Councils and District Boards held the prescribed number of meetings; one Local Board and three Zamindari Boards failed in this respect. Out of a total of 736 meetings held by Local Boards, 77 proved abortive for want of a quorum. Fifteen District Councils and fifty-nine Local Boards had an average non-official attendance of under 50 per cent and the provincial averages for these bodies were 46 and 42 per cent, respectively.

Number,
constitution,
meetings and
attendance.

80. Income and expenditure, excluding account heads, showed an increase of Rs. 93,000 and Rs. 3,85,000, respectively, over the figures of 1914-15. The principal variations in income were increases of Rs. 98,000 in Government contributions and Rs. 37,000 under Local Rates and decreases of Rs. 21,000 in Cattle-pound Receipts and of Rs. 18,000 in Bazar Cesses. Government contributions amounted to nearly 16 lakhs of rupees; of this about nine and a half lakhs was assigned for educational purposes, including special grants of Rs. 2,06,000 for the maintenance of new primary schools, Rs. 66,000 for pension contributions and raising the pay of masters and Rs. 1,67,000 for the construction and extension of schools of the Vernacular Middle and Primary Grades. The measures for the expansion of Primary Education resulted in an increase of 32 in the number of schools in this grade. Six lakhs was assigned for Civil works, including a sum of Rs. 3,82,000 on account of the maintenance of roads and buildings transferred from the Public Works Department to District Councils. In the Berar Division the closing balances of the District Boards, which have been excessive in the past, were over three and a quarter lakhs less than at the close of the previous year, though the balance of the Akola Board was still the largest in the Province. The programmes of road construction which have been prepared for the Division will usefully employ the balances at the disposal of these Boards. The total expenditure on Education, excluding the cost of buildings and repairs, amounted to Rs. 8,06,000 in the Central Provinces and Rs. 3,93,000 in Berar, the percentage of the total income thus expended in the two areas falling at 31 and 35 per cent, respectively. The expenditure on school buildings was Rs. 4,24,381, as compared with Rs. 2,95,275 in 1914-15. The number of dispensaries subsidised by District Funds increased from 160 to 165, and the expenditure incurred was Rs. 1,57,834, an increase of 25 per cent over the previous year's figure. The expenditure on vaccination was Rs. 98,971, about Rs. 20,000 more than in the previous year, the excess being due to increase of staff and improvement of the scale of pay, and Rs. 30,644 was spent on conservancy. Government made a grant of Rs. 55,000 for the improvement of village water-supply, but a considerable balance was left unspent at the close of the year and it

Income and
Expenditure

**DISTRICT
COUNCILS AND
LOCAL
BOARDS**

has been decided in future to concentrate these grants on particular areas. The total expenditure on Civil works amounted to Rs. 18,89,905 against Rs. 17,23,113 in the previous year. The expenditure on communications, as in the previous year, accounted for about 38 per cent of this total, while Rs. 4,24,381 was spent on school buildings. The results of the working of the Divisional Local Fund Engineer scheme were under examination during the year, but a final opinion has not yet been pronounced on its suitability to the circumstances of the Province. The amount spent on arboriculture was Rs. 34,029. The number of cattle-pounds increased from 1,397 to 1,435; the income fell by 4 per cent, while the expenditure rose by 3 per cent. All charges on account of Veterinary Dispensaries, except the pay of Veterinary Assistants, continued to be met from District Funds. The number of cases treated rose considerably.

10—MILITARY (VOLUNTEERING)

**MILITARY
(VOLUNTEER-
ING)**

**The Nagpur
Volunteer
Rifles.**

81. The Nagpur Volunteer Rifles and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Rifles were the only Volunteer Corps in the Province. The enrolled strength of the Nagpur Volunteer Rifles in 1915-16 numbered 1,331, including 34 Commissioned Officers, as compared with 1,372, including 32 Commissioned Officers, in 1914-15. Of this number, 1,203 were classed as extra-efficient, 121 as efficient and seven as non-efficient, while marksmen numbered 381, as compared with 324 in the preceding year. There were 81 Reservists, all of whom were efficient. The annual Camp-of-Exercise was held at Nagpur from the 23rd to the 29th January 1916. The average strength actually living in Camp numbered 520 of all ranks, as compared with 716 in the previous year, the decrease in attendance being attributed to the inability of some Volunteers to leave their ordinary duties. The operations in Camp included field-firing exercise, and the Battalion obtained useful experience in field practice with the 2nd Battalion, Bengal-Nagpur Railway Volunteer Rifles, whose Camp was held at Nagpur during the same period. The Corps was inspected during the Camp-of-Exercise by the General Officer Commanding the Jubbulpore Brigade, who expressed himself as generally satisfied with what he had seen. A detachment of seven men was sent to reinforce the Maxim Gun Section of the Corps on active service with the Indian Expeditionary Force "B," while two more Volunteers received Commissions in the Indian Army Reserve of Officers during the year. The financial position of the Corps was satisfactory.

**The Bengal-
Nagpur
Railway
Volunteer
Rifles.**

82. The total enrolled strength of the 2nd Battalion, Bengal-Nagpur Railway Corps, which has its head-quarters at Nagpur, was 594 on the 31st March 1916, as compared with 630 in the preceding year. Of this number 304, including 14 Officers, were employed in the Central Provinces, and of these 235 were classed as extra-efficient, 66 as efficient and three as non-efficient, while marksmen numbered 90. During the year field days were held at Kharagpur for tactical exercises, and at the annual Camp-of-Exercise, which was held at Nagpur simultaneously with the Camp of the Nagpur Volunteer Rifles, the Battalion engaged in field operations in combination with the latter Corps. The financial position of the Corps was satisfactory.

CHAPTER IV

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

1—AGRICULTURE

**AGRICUL-
TURE**

[Report on the working of the Department of Agriculture and on the Agricultural Stations of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th June 1916.]

83. The Department of Agriculture is now firmly established and its activities are only limited by lack of staff and money ; it is unfortunate therefore that expansion continued to be hampered by financial stringency in 1915-16. Effect could not be given to the additions to the superior staff sanctioned by the Secretary of State and no change was made in the organisation of the Department's operations in three main Circles covering the wheat, rice and cotton tracts of the Province. Although the need for economy prevented the inauguration of projects on a large scale, the equipment of the new farm at Betul was completed and new farms were opened at Chandkhuri in the Raipur District and at Kawardha. In other directions expenditure had to be curtailed and the total cost of the Department amounted to four and a half lakhs of rupees, an increase of only Rs. 13,469 over the previous year. **Agriculture.**

84. The course of instruction at the Agricultural College was remodelled by the adoption of a new curriculum, which provides a two years' course in practical and theoretical agriculture, including the necessary allied science, and for specially selected students an advanced course of one and a half or two years more for the study of various branches of science, while continuing their training in practical agriculture. The introduction of the new curriculum has popularised the course and has greatly increased the number of applications for admission, necessitating the extension of the College hostel. A fair proportion of the new students are sons of agriculturists ; such students, when they have passed out of the College, not only farm their own lands on improved lines, but also exert a wider influence as unpaid demonstrators of the methods of the Department. Practically none, however, of the agriculturists who are given scholarships to attend the matriculation classes at High Schools go on to the Agricultural College. The necessity of considering the whole question of agricultural education has been recognised and a representative conference was convened for the purpose. **Agricultural education.**

The publication and issue of the Agricultural and Co-operative Gazette in English and vernacular continued throughout the year, but the circulation fell from 5,912 to 5,762, the decrease being due mainly to the elimination of persistent defaulters from the list of subscribers. A hand-book of agricultural leaflets was also issued in the Northern tract and met with a ready reception. The weekly cotton returns were continued and their utility was widely appreciated.

85. The completion of the new Agricultural Research Institute gave a stimulus to research and the investigations of the laboratory, co-ordinated with the field work of the Department, are giving sound practical results. The season was a favourable one and interesting and valuable experiments were carried out at the ten Experimental Farms and large quantities of selected seeds of different kinds were distributed by them. The Department, while giving considerable attention to special crops such as sugar-cane and ground-nut and to experiments in artificial manures, regards as its first duty the improvement of staple crops by means which are within the immediate reach of every cultivator. The Akola Farm has achieved striking results with Rosea cotton seed, which emanated from this Farm, and it is estimated that at least one-third of the cotton area of the Province was sown during the year with this variety, which, as compared with the old *jari*, augments very considerably the profits of the cotton **Agricultural enquiry and demonstration**

growers. On the Powarkhera Farm rotation experiments with wheat were continued and the great advantage of sowing kharif crops in line was very clearly demonstrated, while both on this farm and on the Adhartal Farm successful results were obtained by manuring with *mahun* refuse and *sana* hemp or *turota* weed ploughed in as green manure. Other experiments in staple crops have established the value of the *Sukerhai pissi*, the Pusa 12 wheat and the *Gom mata* rice as excellent yielding varieties, and useful results were also obtained with juar, sugar-cane, ground-nut and oranges. At the Raipur Farm experiments continued to prove the great profit to be derived from transplantation of rice. The future of irrigation in the Province depends largely on the efforts of the Agricultural Department and valuable work has been done in investigating the most economical and profitable methods of applying water. Among other results, it has been shown that even in a year of exceptional rainfall irrigation gives a substantial increase in the outturn of rice, and that for wheat the best results are obtained by a good watering about a month after sowing and another smaller watering a month later. For experimental work on the light soils typical of very large areas to be commanded by the new irrigation canals a farm was opened at Chandkhuri to supplement the work on the Raipur Farm.

The operations of the Department in demonstrating to agriculturists the increased profits to be derived from the employment of improved implements and methods of agriculture and the use of properly selected seed continued to expand. In connection with the campaign to promote the transplantation of rice in Chhattisgarh, personally conducted tours of selected malguzars and tenants through villages of districts where transplantation has been practised for generations are doing much to convince the conservative Chhattisgarhi cultivators of its advantages. More effective still is the system adopted in the Northern Circle, by which small demonstration plots in charge of trained kamdars are established in selected villages and become valuable centres for the collection and dissemination of agricultural intelligence. Intimate relations were maintained by the Department with the Co-operative movement; agricultural and seed unions have proved the best medium for the distribution of pure seed and in the Northern Circle alone the area of certified seed farms now exceeds 6,000 acres, while in the cotton country of Berar the Registered Unions distributed 263 tons and the seed farms 110 tons of Rosea seed. Good progress was made also in the sale of improved implements through the Government depots, the Department acting as selling agents for manufacturing firms.

Cattle-breeding operations had a successful year at the breeding farms at Borgaon, Powarkhera and Chandkhuri and at the College Dairy Farm, but the Nagpur (Telinkheri) herd has not thrived in its existing surroundings and is being moved to grazing grounds in the Balaghat District. The pioneer Co-operative Farms at Nawagaon and Khandwa continued to progress under Government patronage and guidance. The Nagpur Gaoli Societies in connection with the Telinkheri Dairy have proved a complete success and the organisation has been beneficial to the public of Nagpur as well as to its members. The Entomological staff of the Department continued to be engaged in the investigation of the life-history of the "Maho" pest, which in past years has caused considerable damage to the rice crop in Chhattisgarh, and in organising preventive measures to meet its ravages.

District Associations.

86. In pursuance of the policy followed in other Circles progress was made with the formation of Taluq Agricultural Associations in the Western Circle in place of the old District Associations, which have proved too bulky and heterogeneous. The new Taluq Associations have proved their capacity to do more practical work in advancing scientific agricultural practice than the larger bodies, which are to be recast as advisory bodies for the districts as a whole.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

Co-operative Societies.

1 (a)—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

[Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1915-16.]

87. The conditions of the season of 1915-16 were entirely favourable for agriculture, and though the year did not witness any rapid expansion of the co-operative movement, it was a period of substantial progress and consolidation.

The number of societies increased from 2,297 to 2,685, including 125 guaranteeing unions of existing primary societies. The membership rose from 44,084 to 60,538, and the working capital from 72½ to 87 lakhs of rupees; of the increase in membership some 4,000 were newly enrolled in primary societies, while the remainder were members of primary societies converted into shareholders in the Central Banks to which their societies are affiliated. The controlling agency has been strengthened and an Assistant Commissioner and two Extra-Assistant Commissioners have been appointed to assist the Registrar, thus providing, with the Assistant Registrar, an officer for each of the four Circles into which the Province is divided and leaving the Registrar free for general supervision. This measure has proved sufficient to permit moderate expansion, and four-fifths of the applications for registration were accepted. An excellent beginning was made with the formation of guaranteeing unions of primary societies, by which the Central Bank is left to deal with groups of societies and is thus relieved of much detail. Other noteworthy features of the year's working were the steps taken to ensure the real representation of the primary societies at meetings of the Central Banks and the creation of owned capital by compulsory "thrift-shares" in these Banks for the members of primary societies.

88. The working capital of the Provincial Bank rose from Rs. 13,44,350 to Rs. 16,78,400, and half of this capital is invested in the co-operative movement within the Province. Cash repayments of loans by Central Banks amounted to Rs. 7,47,393, while deposits increased from Rs. 1,69,275 to Rs. 4,73,645. The total deposits held by the Provincial Bank increased from Rs. 9,86,786 to Rs. 13,35,231. The Bank declared a dividend of 4 per cent, and the reserve fund was raised from Rs. 40,822 to Rs. 54,000, Rs. 12,000 of which is provided for the temporary depreciation of securities. The Provincial Federation of Co-operative Banks, as the governing body of the movement in the Province, maintained discipline and co-ordination of effort and kept a careful watch upon its members. The Congress of elected delegates from the Central Banks met during the year to consider the recommendations of the All-India Committee on Co-operation and revised the by-laws of Central Banks and of primary societies and drafted by-laws for the guaranteeing unions. There were 29 Central Banks as in the previous year, and it is one of the best features of the year that these institutions have continued to grow in financial strength. Their working capital increased from Rs. 29,37,461 to Rs. 36,20,726, share capital from Rs. 6,03,173 to Rs. 8,00,687 and deposits by individuals from Rs. 11,66,702 to Rs. 16,17,709. The financial stability of the Central Banks was apparent from the fact that they owned 24 per cent of their capital against a standard of 10 per cent aimed at in Europe and a standard of 12½ per cent recommended by the Committee on Co-operation. The Banks' indebtedness to the Provincial Bank had fallen to Rs. 8,42,848 at the close of the year. The Central Banks hold no fluid resource and only a small reserve, which amounted to Rs. 55,601 at the close of the year, but they depend on the protection afforded by the fluid resource maintained by the Provincial Bank.

Working
of Central
Societies,
Provincial and
Central
Banks.

89. Agricultural Societies for purposes other than credit are still in their infancy, and are practically confined to Seed Unions, but the spontaneous appearance of small unions of substantial tenants, who have put up their own capital to start small farms for the production of pure seed, indicates that the co-operative spirit has taken firm root. The number of registered societies of this class increased from 18 to 24 and all made good progress. The twelve registered Cotton Unions in the Western Circle produced and sold 591,131 lbs. of pure Rosea seed and made profits amounting to over Rs. 56,000. In the Southern Circle there were two societies for cattle-breeding in the Raipur District, while the two societies of Gaolis in Nagpur made a profit of Rs. 4,778 for their 25 members and conducted their business satisfactorily. In the Northern Circle seven Seed Unions, which exist simply for the purpose of producing pure seed for wheat and rice, largely increased their stocks.

Agricultural
Unions for
production
and sale.

90. The number of societies of this class rose from 2,154 to 2,412, the membership from 36,981 to 40,998, the working capital from Rs. 28,05,533 to Rs. 32,57,634 and the savings deposits by members with their own societies from

Agricultural
Societies,
Unlimited.

Rs. 1,06,788 to Rs. 1,27,622; including the latter, the societies owned approximately 12½ per cent of their capital. 2,234 societies were shareholders in the Central Banks to which they were affiliated.

Non-agricultural Societies; Credit Limited.

91. There were ten of these in existence in the Province. The most important were the Government Press Society and the Post Office (Central Circle) Society. The latter is destined to become a very big concern, while the former continued its career of unbroken success.

Non-agricultural Societies; Credit Unlimited.

92. Societies of this class decreased in number from 85 to 81, membership from 1,115 to 1,066 and working capital from Rs. 52,500 to Rs. 50,312. There are 53 societies of weavers, 5 of dyers, 2 of workers in gold and silver, 7 of basket makers, 4 of workers in brass and copper, 2 of potters, 7 of petty traders and 1 of leather workers. The weavers and dyers have not yet recovered from the depression caused by the war, which affected them more severely than any other class in the Province. The societies of petty traders lack cohesion and have not yet learnt to co-operate. The other societies made satisfactory progress.

Resources.

93. The Provincial Bank increased its deposits and reserve fund and declared a dividend of 4 per cent. The Central Banks strengthened their financial position and collected the major portion of the amount due for recovery from their constituent societies. The co-operative movement in the Province at the close of the year was self-supporting; it owed no money to Government or to the Allahabad Bank and was in possession of investments outside its own business aggregating over 10½ lakhs of rupees. Of these investments, six and a half lakhs was fluid, and over and above this resource there remained intact the cash credit of ten lakhs granted by the Allahabad Bank.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

1 (a)—VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

Report on the working of the Veterinary Department, Central Provinces, for the year ending the 31st March 1916.

Veterinary Department.

94. The year was an exceptionally healthy one for cattle and the mortality from rinderpest showed a decrease of nearly 64 per cent from the previous year's figure, which was itself less than a third of that for 1913-14, while the mortality from all diseases was little more than two-thirds of that in 1914-15. On the other hand, a considerable increase in the number of cases treated both in the field and dispensaries, which totalled well over a quarter of a million, excluding inoculations, shows that the activities of the Department's officers and the confidence of the people in their work are steadily increasing. The assistance of the agricultural community is enlisted in popularising inoculation and the services rendered by cultivators in this direction were recognised by the grant of sanads in 26 cases. The rules for the reporting of outbreaks of cattle disease were revised during the year and an improved system was introduced for reporting outbreaks in Government forest areas, which, it is hoped, with the co-operation of the Forest Department authorities, will secure more prompt recourse to remedial measures when an outbreak of disease occurs in a Government forest. The Laboratory demonstrated its usefulness in the Department's work by facilitating the prompt diagnosis of disease. The Central Provinces Slaughter of Animals Act, 1915, which was recently passed into law, should do much to improve the working and regulate the sanitation of the larger slaughter-houses, and the framing of rules suitable to local conditions is under consideration.

95. During the year the expenditure incurred by the Veterinary Department rose slightly from Rs. 2,10,555 to Rs. 2,21,288. The increase was chiefly due to larger expenditure by Local Bodies on the maintenance of dispensaries and hospitals and the construction of auxiliary buildings. Provincial expenditure decreased by nearly Rs. 20,000 owing partly to the exercise of economy and partly to the absence of one of the two Superintendents for nearly the whole of the year. In order to secure men with a higher standard of training for the staff of Veterinary Assistants and to induce students from these Provinces to undergo the course of training at Bombay, a scheme for the improvement of the scale of pay of these officers received administrative sanction during the year and effect is to

be given to the measure as soon as funds are available. The prospect of better conditions has already begun to attract graduates from the Presidency Colleges and a marked advance in the standard of efficiency is expected to follow the introduction of the reform. The improvement in the prospects of compounders, and in particular the provision of a pension, has had an excellent effect on the recruiting and training of this class.

2—WEATHER AND CROPS

WEATHER AND CROPS

[Season and Crop Report of the Central Provinces for the year 1915-16, area and yield of certain principal crops in India, 1915-16, and Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume I]

96. The monsoon of 1915 broke in the last week of June and gave **Rainfall** generally well distributed and sufficient rain for beginning the sowing of the kharif crops. During July, August and September the rainfall was seasonable and the condition of the crops was generally good and prospects were favourable throughout the Province. There was good rainfall in the first fortnight of October, followed by showers in the latter half of the month, which greatly facilitated the preparation of land for the sowing of the spring crops. Though sowings were somewhat delayed by the late rain in parts of the Provinces, the germination of the crops was throughout satisfactory. Light to moderate rain was received in all districts in November and December, but January passed practically rainless. About the middle of February general rain fell throughout the Provinces and benefited the standing crops, except in a few tracts where slight damage was caused by hailstorms and frost. A sprinkling of rain fell in a limited area in March and some light showers were received in April and May. The general average rainfall of the Central Provinces during the year was 49.08 inches as compared with an average of 48.35 inches for the past 48 years. All districts, except Saugor, Hoshangabad, Narsinghpur, Nimar, Betul, Chanda and Drug, received more than the average rainfall, the excess being most marked in Jubbulpore and Bhardara, where it amounted to 30 and 22 per cent, respectively. In Berar the general average was 33.52 inches as against an average of 31.91 for the last 22 years.

97. The kharif area in the Central Provinces expanded again by 336,816 **Character of** acres (3 per cent), the increase being common to all districts except Wardha, the season. Nagpur, Chanda and Raipur. The expansion in the Jubbulpore Division amounted to 206,260 acres (9 per cent), in the Nerbudda Division to 151,819 acres (6 per cent) and in the Chhattisgarh Division to 36,627 acres (1 per cent), while in the Nagpur Division there was a contraction of 57,890 acres (2 per cent). The area under jwar rose by no less than 375,221 acres (20 per cent) owing in part to the substitution of this crop for cotton on account of the depression in the price of the latter and in part to the high price of rabi seed, while the area under rice, encouraged by the favourable rainfall at sowing time, rose by 129,749 acres (3 per cent). The area under cotton decreased by 414,911 acres (25 per cent). The kharif area in Berar rose by 7,398 acres, the area under jwar and til increasing by 11 and 16 per cent respectively, while that under cotton shrank by 10 per cent. The outturn of the kharif crop for the Central Provinces and Berar as a whole ranged from 90 to 128 per cent of the normal. The rabi area of the Provinces taken together increased by 171,032 acres (2 per cent); the area under wheat in the Central Provinces rising by 144,180 acres (5 per cent). All Divisions, except Jubbulpore and Nerbudda, shared in the increase. The contraction which took place in these two Divisions was partly due to the extension of the kharif area and partly to want of seed, while the expansion of the double-cropped area and favourable climatic conditions at sowing time account for the increase recorded in the remaining Divisions. The rabi harvest ranged from 90 to 100 per cent of a normal crop. Timely and abundant rainfall obviated the necessity for artificial watering, and the irrigated area consequently contracted further in the Central Provinces from 720,398 acres to 513,137 acres (29 per cent). The shrinkage was most marked in the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions, where the area fell by 161,428 and 47,547 acres, respectively. Irrigation in Berar is chiefly confined to the watering of garden crops from wells, and the area irrigated increased by 4,167 acres. There was no deficiency of either fodder or water.

**WEATHER
AND CROPS**
**Yield of the
autumn
(kharif) crops.**

98. *Rice*.—The area under rice in the Central Provinces rose by 129,749 acres (3 per cent). The seasonal conditions were very favourable for the crop, though in Chhattisgarh a break in the rain delayed transplanting and thinning and insect pests again caused damage. The Bhandara District had a bumper crop, and in the Central Provinces, as a whole, the yield of broadcast and transplanted rice amounted to 114 and 128 of the normal, respectively, against 92 and 121 in the previous year.

Juar.—Juar occupied 2,217,034 acres in the Central Provinces, 375,221 acres (20 per cent) more than the large area sown in the previous year. In Berar the area increased by 258,424 acres or by 11 per cent. The course of the monsoon was favourable for the crop and the outturn was satisfactory everywhere, the total yield for both Provinces being 112 per cent of the normal against 100 in the previous year.

Cotton.—In the Central Provinces the area placed under cotton decreased from 1,643,543 to 1,228,632 acres or by 25 per cent. In Berar from 3,180,264 to 2,849,680 acres or by 10 per cent. The shrinkage in area is due to the comparatively low prices obtaining in the previous year. The season was altogether favourable to the crop except towards the close of the monsoon, when continuous and excessive rain fell in most of the important cotton districts. For the Central Provinces and Berar together, the outturn was 103 against 92 in 1914-15.

Til.—The area under til in the Central Provinces fell from 843,976 to 813,088 acres or by 4 per cent mainly owing to continuous rain at sowing time in certain districts; but in Berar the area expanded by 13,356 acres (16 per cent). Despite the late arrival of the monsoon and the heavy fall at the start, the course of the season was favourable to this crop in most districts, except towards the end of the monsoon, when excessive moisture affected the crop in the northern districts. For the Central Provinces and Berar together, the outturn was 106 against 96 in the previous year.

**Yield of the
spring (rabi)
crops.**

Wheat.—The area placed under wheat and chana-gram in the Central Provinces amounted to 3,346,331 acres, an increase of 44,180 acres (5 per cent) over last year's figures. The late monsoon rain was favourable for the sowing of the crop and germination was generally good although bad seed and heavy rain in the Nagpur and Chanda Districts, respectively necessitated resowing, while cloudy weather affected germination in Nimar. The cold weather rainfall benefited the standing crops, but cloudy weather, frost and hail caused some damage in a few districts. For the Central Provinces and Berar together, a normal outturn was reaped against 86 per cent in the previous year. Gram fared less satisfactorily and the yield for the Province as a whole was 96 per cent of the normal.

Linseed.—The area under linseed in the Central Provinces and Berar decreased by 174,323 acres (15 per cent) and 4,909 acres (9 per cent), respectively. The fall in the price of linseed, adverse climatic conditions at sowing time, the extension of wheat cultivation and the scarcity of seed owing to failure of last year's crop mainly account for the shrinkage. Protracted rain at sowing time, cloudy weather, frost, insects and rust slightly damaged the crop and reduced the outturn in some districts. For both areas together, the estimated yield amounted to 96 against 80 per cent in 1914-15.

**HORTICUL-
TURE**

3—HORTICULTURE

[Report on the management of the Provincial and District Gardens in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1915-16.]

**Provincial
Gardens.**

99. The season was on the whole favourable for horticulture, and, with the maintenance of a satisfactory water-supply from the Telinkheri Tank, further improvement was effected in the appearance of the Maharajbagh Garden. The surroundings of the garden have been greatly improved by the tasteful laying out of the grounds of the Agricultural Research Institute and of some waste land in the vicinity. The new varieties of orange and mango which were introduced, as an experiment, from Bangalore made good growth, and the fruit of the former, though similar in appearance to a local variety, proves superior to it both in

flavour and skin. The number of plants which were sold or distributed free during the year was 35,504, nearly 5,000 more than last year, but the income fell by Rs. 1,200, the decrease being largely due to the reduction in the stock of grafted and budded plants owing to the extension of the ornamental part of the garden. The expenditure remained practically the same as last year, while the net cost rose from Rs. 8,550 to Rs. 9,765. The Telinkheri Garden was on the whole well maintained during the year and its appearance further improved, but owing to a shortage of water-supply during the hot weather months the fruit garden suffered some loss. The facilities for irrigating the garden are being improved so as to overcome this deficiency in future. The receipts of the garden continue to show a satisfactory rise due to increased sales of vegetables and fruit. The Pachmarhi and Pagara Gardens also had a generally satisfactory season, despite damage caused by excessive rain in August and by frost in February. Very fair crops of fruit and vegetables were raised and the display of flowers was again a fine one. The new well in the Pachmarhi Garden was completed and proved entirely successful. The total receipts decreased to Rs. 5,667 from Rs. 6,026 in the previous year, while the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 6,048 against Rs. 6,316 in the previous year. The decrease in receipts is due, as in the previous year, to the reduction in the sale of produce owing to military changes at Pachmarhi and Jubbulpore.

100. The total receipts fell slightly from Rs. 11,776 to Rs. 11,763, while expenditure dropped from Rs. 30,991 to Rs. 27,605. The net expenditure was thus Rs. 15,842 against a net expenditure of Rs. 19,215 in the previous year. Receipts were seriously affected by the failure of the orange crop in several gardens, while the prolonged hot weather also had a disastrous effect on vegetable crops. The main difficulties experienced are the inadequacy of the available water-supply and the lack of competent gardeners. To meet the latter defect arrangements were made for local men of the right stamp to be sent to Nagpur for training, but only one recruit was secured. The working of the gardens is being examined with a view to effecting greater economy and efficiency in management by restricting the staff employed and the area cultivated strictly within the limits of local needs and by leasing out the extra land which is not required for garden purposes.

**District
Gardens.**

4- FORESTS

FORESTS

[Reports of the Conservators of Forests of the Northern, Southern and Berar Circles, on the Forest Administration in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1915-16, with the review thereon, and Statistical Abstract, Volume II, Financial.]

101. The total area of forest under the control of the Forest Department at the close of the year was 19,666 square miles, a reduction of one square mile. The area of A Class forest decreased by nine square miles in all, while B Class and C Class forest increased by three square miles and five square miles respectively. Ten square miles in all were disforested for the extension of cultivation. The percentage of Reserved Forests on the total area of the Province was 19.7. During the year 14.98 square miles were finally settled, while at its close settlement operations were in progress in respect of an area of 9.12 square miles.

102. The total expenditure on demarcation work was Rs. 13,089, Rs. 9,473 less than the expenditure in the previous year. The total length of boundaries decreased during the year by 104 miles, a reduction of 50½ miles being obtained by exchanges of forest areas with malguzari lands. The operations of the Survey of India Department were confined to the Berar Circle, in which Party No. 5 continued the topographical survey in the Nimar and Buldana Districts. A Reserved Forest area of 54 square miles was surveyed on the 2-inch scale and a boundary survey was made on the 4-inch scale. Forest village surveys through the agency of the local staff were continued in all the three Circles.

**Demarcation
and Survey.**

103. Revised working-plans were sanctioned during the year for the forests of the Chhindwara and Akola Divisions. Revised plans for both the North and South Raipur Divisions were submitted for orders, the plans for the Balaghat and Melghat Divisions were ready for submission at the end of the year and orders were passed on the working-plan for the Yeotmal Division. Out of the total area of

**Working-
plans.**

19,666 square miles of forest under the control of the Forest Department working-plans had been sanctioned for 15,212 square miles, plans were under preparation for 1,980 square miles, plans have still to be prepared for 364 square miles and in respect of 2,110 square miles, mostly of B Class, no plans are required.

**Roads,
buildings,
tanks and
wells.**

104. The total expenditure on communications amounted to Rs. 40,795 as compared with Rs. 90,331 in the previous year, the decrease of 55 per cent being due to curtailment of expenditure owing to the financial stringency. The outlay on new works was reduced to Rs. 17,499 against Rs. 56,776 in 1914-15, this amount being spent mainly on regular cart roads. The sum of Rs. 23,296 was spent on repairs over a length of 5,314 miles. The total outlay on buildings was Rs. 43,700 against Rs. 78,355 in the previous year, the reduction being practically confined to expenditure on new works. The expenditure on these works amounted to Rs. 15,858, the bulk of which was spent on housing the subordinate establishment, and repairs cost Rs. 27,858. The total expenditure on tanks, wells and other miscellaneous works fell from Rs. 25,446 to Rs. 11,564, of which Rs. 6,430 was spent on new works chiefly wells.

**Forest
offences.**

105. The total number of forest offences reported during the year rose from 12,556 to 13,937. There was a rise under all heads, but unauthorised grazing accounted for more than half the total increase. The increase was attributed mainly to the better patrolling and greater vigilance of the staff. Of the total number of cases to be dealt with, two per cent were taken to Court and 84 per cent were settled by compensation, while four per cent remained undetected, and ten per cent were pending at the close of the year. Of the 253 cases decided by the Courts convictions were obtained in 199 cases. Of the 13,133 cases compounded compensation was recovered in all save three which were acquitted. The average compensation realised per case and per person, respectively, was Rs. 6-10-3 and Rs. 2-9-8 in the Northern Circle and Rs. 10-13-0 and Rs. 3-12-7 in the Berar Circle, while the average compensation per person in the Southern Circle was Rs. 2-6-9.

**Protection
from fire.**

106. The area over which fire-protection was attempted declined from 11,705 square miles to 10,920 square miles and the cost of the operations was Rs. 1,01,442. Ninety-seven per cent of the area over which protection was attempted was successfully protected as against a percentage of 98 in the previous year. The lowest percentage of failure of fire-protection, 0.05, occurred in the Melghat Division and the highest, 10.8, in the Chhindwara Division. The average cost of protection per square mile decreased from Rs. 9-7-0 in 1914-15 to Rs. 9-4-7 in 1915-16.

**Exploitation,
syiviculture
and manage-
ment.**

107. The area worked by systematic fellings rose from 184,715 acres to 204,361. The total number of animals grazed in Government forests during the year was 3,645,032 against 3,748,741 in the previous year. The decrease was shared by the Berar and Northern Circles and was attributed mainly to the abundance of village fodder. During the year, 1,589,920 animals grazed at full rates, 1,789,987 at privileged rates and 265,125 free of charge, the corresponding numbers in the previous year being respectively 1,835,635, 1,674,664 and 238,442. The total value of grazing calculated at full rates amounted to Rs. 24,10,050 against Rs. 23,14,908 in the preceding year. The actual revenue from this source fell from Rs. 14,09,149 to Rs. 13,83,047, a decrease of Rs. 26,102, which is confined to Berar, and is more than accounted for by the reduction in fees recovered as surtax for grazing in A Class forests. The total value of the concessions granted in respect of grazing in Government forests amounted to Rs. 10,79,338 against Rs. 9,81,274 in the preceding year. The grazing incidence per head of cattle varied in the Northern Circle from 2.5 acres to 7.4 acres and in the Southern Circle from 3.4 acres to 14.6 acres, while in the Berar Circle the minimum and maximum incidences in A Class forests were 2.5 acres and 1.4 acres and in C Class forests 0.5 and 0.7 of an acre. The average incidence for the Province as a whole was 2.8 acres as in the previous year. The total outturn of major produce fell by 5,688,833 cubic feet, the decrease being in both timber and fuel. The total value of minor produce removed by all agencies declined by Rs. 69,106.

108. The gross revenue fell from Rs. 32,73,539 to Rs. 32,20,755 and the expenditure from Rs. 18,80,927 to Rs. 16,95,026. There was thus an increase of Rs. 1,33,117 in the net revenue of the year, which rose from Rs. 13,92,612 to Rs. 15,25,729. **Financial results.**

5—MINES AND QUARRIES

MINES AND QUARRIES

[Report on the working of the Indian Mines Act in the Central Provinces for the calendar year 1915, and Volume I of the Statistical Abstract.]

109. One new coal mine was opened during the year and, with the inclusion of four trial pits which were worked, the total number of collieries working in the Province increased from seven to twelve. The output of coal rose from 244,745 to 253,118 tons, the great bulk of which was derived, as in previous years, from the four mines at Ballarpur, Mohpani, Chandameta and Barkuhi. The output of the Mohpani and Chandameta Collieries fell by 8,500 tons, but this was more than counterbalanced by the increased output of 11,000 tons from the Ballarpur, Barkuhi and Jatachappar Collieries. The value of the total output was Rs. 10,83,923, a little less than in the previous year, while the general average price of coal at the pit-head was Rs. 4-4-6 per ton, nearly three annas lower than that of the previous year. The number of persons employed in coal mines was about 3,000 as in the previous year. **Collieries.**

110. The output of manganese decreased from 510,936 tons, valued at Rs. 22,02,272, to 352,969 tons, valued at Rs. 14,59,448. The provincial average price of the ore at the pit's mouth fell from Rs. 4-5-0 to Rs. 4-2-0 per ton. The decrease in output and the fall in value is shared by all the districts except Bhandara and Balaghat and is due to the set-back at first given to the manganese industry by the war. From the time of the outbreak of hostilities till August 1915 there was practically no demand for the ore; but since then there has been a keen demand from the United Kingdom, France and America, mainly for the manufacture of munitions. Notwithstanding this increased demand and the consequent rise in prices, the exporter was no better off than in normal times owing to the great increase in sea freights. The average number of persons employed decreased by 1,799 owing to the reduction of output caused by the war in the early part of the year. **Manganese Mining.**

111. The quantity of limestone won from the Katni quarries in the Jubbulpore District declined from 150,154 to 63,079 tons, though the average general price of the mineral advanced from 12 annas to Rs. 1-2-0 per ton. The quantity of iron ore extracted amounted to only 2,800 tons as compared with 16,523 tons in the previous year; the decreased output is accounted for by the fact that one mine was closed down, while the Lohara Mine worked for less than half the year. Clays of various kinds were worked in considerable quantities and small quantities of bauxite, galena and Fuller's Earth were extracted. The average number of persons employed in all mines was 14,296 against 18,294 in the previous year. The number of workers employed in excavating minerals other than manganese and coal fell from 4,549 to 2,222, the decrease being chiefly due to the reduced working of the limestone quarries. In the Nagpur, Bilaspur and Bhandara Districts the mines had, as usual, to depend on imported labour, as the local supply was inadequate. There was no material change in the rates of wages paid to the various classes of workers, and though malaria and fevers were prevalent in some mining camps for part of the year, their health and physical condition were generally good and there were no epidemics. There were 25 accidents during the year, resulting in the death of 8 persons and serious injury to 17, as against 24 accidents and 12 lives lost in 1914. In all the cases the accidents were due either to carelessness on the part of the workers or to a combination of circumstances which could not be foreseen. There were in all 105 inspections as compared with 102 in the preceding year. Two prosecutions were instituted under the Indian Mines Act and both resulted in the conviction of the accused. Sixty-seven prospecting licenses and 24 mining leases were granted during the year as against 72 prospecting licenses and 16 mining leases in the previous year. **Miscellaneous.**

6—MANUFACTURES

[Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act XII of 1911 in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1915, and Volume I of the Statistical Abstract.]

Number of Factories, Employees, Accidents.

112. The total number of factories in the Province increased from 438 in 1914 to 450, of which 26 remained closed during the year; 431 factories were engaged in the cotton industry. The average daily number of operatives employed rose from 47,159 to 48,846 during the year; of these 10,306 were employed in perennial and the remainder in seasonal factories. There was an increase in the number of accidents reported from 162 to 217; of these two were fatal, while 58 were classed as serious and 157 as minor. This result, however, was not due to laxity in management, and the protection of machinery was generally satisfactory. The sanitary arrangements in the factories were on the whole satisfactory, and the general health of the operatives with a few exceptions was good.

Prosecutions. Supervision.

113. Adequate attention was given by the Inspecting staff to the working of the Indian Factories Act. There were in all 36 prosecutions, 33 of which resulted in convictions, and in most cases salutary punishment was inflicted by the Courts. The total number of inspections rose from 770 in 1914 to 1,003 in 1915, while 33 factories located in outlying areas or working only for a portion of the year remained uninspected.

TRADE

7—TRADE

[Report on the Rail-borne Traffic of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1915-16 and Volume of Prices and Wages in Trade.]

General.

114. Provincial trade made a great recovery from the slump of the previous year and the total rail-borne traffic of the year, omitting animals and treasure, amounted to 70½ million maunds valued at 35½ crores of rupees, as compared with 56½ million maunds valued at 28½ crores in 1914-15. The recovery brought the figures of the year within a short distance of those of the record year 1913-14, in which traffic amounted to nearly 75 million maunds valued at over 38½ crores. The trade of the Province depends mainly on its agriculture and the crops which directly influenced the returns for 1915-16 were the spring crops of 1914-15 and the autumn crops of 1915-16. The spring crop, though sown over a considerably larger area than the previous year, suffered from various disadvantages, and the final estimated outturn of the main crops varied from 80 to 90 per cent of the normal as compared with 75 per cent in the previous year. The autumn crop, on the other hand, was again grown on an enlarged area, and, with a favourable monsoon, the estimated outturn of the principal crops ranged from 103 to 128 per cent of the normal as against a normal yield in the preceding year. The variations in the average prices of the principal kinds of agricultural produce throughout the year were less marked than in the previous year, when the effects of the outbreak of war were first felt and the season was less propitious, and, with the exception of a large rise in cotton and an insignificant rise in rice, prices were lower all round. The price of wheat, though lower than in the previous year, continued considerably above the pre-war rate. The price of cotton, on the other hand, rose almost to its pre-war level, owing to extensive purchases by Japanese buyers and by the Bombay Mills to meet the demand for manufactured goods created by the reduction of foreign stocks.

Imports.

115. The bulk of imports rose from 25 to nearly 30½ million maunds and the value from 12½ to 13½ crores of rupees. This increase of over a crore in the value of imports was mostly accounted for by sugar and manufactured cotton, which increased by 55 lakhs (or 44 per cent) and 37 lakhs, respectively, and is an indication of reviving confidence after the slump of the previous year. The value of sugar imported, namely, a crore and eighty lakhs of rupees, is easily a record; this, together with the steady increase of three lakhs in the value of kerosine oil imported, is a sign of the growing prosperity and improving standard of comfort among the people. The regular rise also in the value of coal and coke imported (this year of three lakhs of rupees) is a sign of growing industrial activity. Though the value of manufactured cotton goods was largely in excess of the figure for the preceding year, the amount is still much below that of the years 1911-12 and 1912-13. A noticeable variation is the decline in the value of

years, this result being due to the general reluctance to embark on heavy expenditure in the uncertain conditions produced by the war and to the high cost of metals imported from abroad owing to heavy sea freights and the embargo on export from many sources.

116. Exports increased in bulk from $31\frac{1}{2}$ to $39\frac{1}{2}$ millions of maunds and in value from 16 to $21\frac{3}{4}$ crores of rupees. This large increase was principally in raw cotton, which accounted for $3\frac{1}{4}$ crores of the difference, while manufactured cotton goods were responsible for 25 lakhs, grain and pulse for 66 lakhs, manganese for 22 lakhs and oilseeds for 43 lakhs. The large increase in the value of raw cotton exported was due to the holding back of produce in the previous year in view of the poor prices then obtaining, to the larger outturn (in spite of a greatly contracted area) and to the important rise in market value throughout the season. The increase in manufactured cotton goods was due to the larger production of the local mills, which were unusually full of orders for goods not only for local consumption but for supply to other parts of India, owing to the curtailment of imports from Europe. The recovery in the export trade of grain and pulse and of oilseeds was due to the improved outturn, which gave a larger surplus after meeting local needs and replenishing stocks. The manganese business recovered with an increasing demand for the ore for munitions; most of the ore is sent to Bombay port, but the trade with Messrs. Tata & Sons' Steel Works is steadily increasing in importance. **Exports.**

8—PUBLIC WORKS

PUBLIC WORKS

*Administration Report on the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department for 1915-16, and Statistical Abstract, Volume I.

117. The year 1915-16 was again one of great activity in the Public Works Department, and the expenditure, though less than that of the preceding year, when the record figure of Rs 87,10,000 was reached, amounted to Rs. 77,05,719, exceeding the previous highest expenditure in 1913-14 by over half a lakh. The expenditure on Imperial works was Rs. 2,44,804, on Provincial works Rs. 63,88,915 and on Contribution works Rs. 10,72,000. The proportion of expenditure on establishment rose from 15.27 to 18.02 per cent. **Public Works.**

118. The General Post Office and the Post and Telegraph Audit Office at Nagpur were practically completed. Among other works the combined Post and Telegraph Offices at Jalgaon and Sakoli were finished and the construction of a combined office and residence for the Superintendent of Post Offices at Raipur was in progress. **Imperial Works.**

119. Of the total expenditure on Provincial works Rs. 31,73,655 was spent on original works, the balance being spent on the maintenance and repair of existing roads and buildings, establishment and plant. Details of some of the principal works carried out are given below. **Provincial Works.**

120. The expenditure on Forest buildings amounted to Rs. 49,264. The enlargement of the Forest School and the extension of the Forest Office at Balaghat and the construction of an office at Buldana were completed. Excise buildings accounted for an outlay of Rs. 64,570. The new distillery at Raipur and eight bonded warehouses were completed. **Buildings.**

The construction of the Legislative Council Hall at Nagpur was carried practically to completion.

The expenditure on Land Revenue buildings was Rs. 1,05,942. A portable Settlement Office was completed at Bhandara. New Tahsil buildings were in progress at Raipur and Hinganghat and the construction of quarters for officials at various tahsils was nearly completed.

Expenditure for the Agriculture Department amounted to Rs. 66,329. The Experimental Farm at Sindewahi and the Cattle-breeding Farm at Borgaon were completed.

The expenditure on buildings for the Education Department was Rs. 5,91,133. Among other works, the High Schools at Bhandara and Bilaspur and the Muhammadan High School at Amraoti were completed, while the construction of the High School at Chanda and the Arts College at Jabulpore was practically finished by the end of the year. The High Schools at Khamgaon and Betul were still in progress and the High School at Saugor was begun.

The expenditure for the Department of Law and Justice amounted to Rs. 2,61,665. New Circuit Houses were constructed at Buldana and Wardha and extensions were made to the Civil Court House at the latter station. The Munsiff's Court Houses were completed at Burhanpur, Sausar and Murwara. The construction of the Civil Court House at Narsinghpur, the Subordinate Judge's Court House at Harda, six Munsiff's Court Houses, quarters for various Executive and Judicial officers and the extension of the District Court House at Mandla were in progress.

The expenditure on Police buildings was Rs. 3,62,002. A bungalow for the Deputy Superintendent at Akola, the Police Office at Wardha, quarters for the Police Sergeant at Nagpur and new Station Houses with quarters at eight places were completed during the year. New Station Houses with quarters were in progress at 17 places and new quarters for staff or men at 26 stations.

The total expenditure on Hospitals, Dispensaries and Asylums was Rs. 1,20,387. The Central Vaccine Depot and the Medical School at Nagpur were approaching completion, the construction of an office for the Civil Surgeon at Khandwa was in progress and extensions were made to the Veterinary Dispensary at Nagpur. The expenditure on Jails amounted to Rs. 48,129, which was spent on extensions and alterations to existing buildings.

**Communica-
tions.**

121. The total expenditure on communications was Rs. 28,23,557, of which Rs. 12,03,495 was laid out on original works. Satisfactory progress was made on the lines of road communication under construction and under improvement. The Nagpur section of the Nagpur-Amraoti road and the Anji-Wardha road were practically completed, and the fifth section of the Chanda-Allapalli road was finished. A submerged bridge on the Raipur-Bilaspur road over the Sheonath river was completed at a cost of over Rs. 84,000, and several other bridges of this type, as well as high-level bridges, culverts and causeways, were under construction. Three Inspection Bungalows and an Inspection Hut were completed and similar buildings were in progress at six places. Rs. 64,336 was spent on arboriculture.

**Sanitary
Works.**

122. The main work of constructing the Gorewara Tank for the Nagpur Water-works was completed with a total expenditure of over nine lakhs of rupees. The construction of the Akola Water-works was in progress and nearly $3\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs of rupees has been spent against an estimate of a little over $6\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs. The supplementary water-supply scheme for Buldana was nearly completed and the supply from this source was opened in March 1916. Substantial progress was made with the Arvi and Damoh Water-works. Projects for the water-supply of three Municipal towns were under the consideration of the local authorities, and schemes for the water-supply of five other towns were either under investigation or being planned. The water-works of 13 towns were maintained by the Public Works Department. Satisfactory progress was made with the Nagpur drainage scheme, and a beginning was made on the Craddock Town drainage scheme. The Harda drainage scheme was well advanced and Rs. 1,68,832 was spent by the close of the year against an estimate of Rs. 2,13,610. Drainage schemes for Jabulpore, Saugor and Khandwa were under the consideration of the local Municipalities and a project was prepared for Chanda.

Miscellaneous.

123. Among the works undertaken for District Councils, the Khandwa-Jaswari section of the Khandwa-Melghat road was completed at a cost of Rs. 33,987. The bungalow at Pachmarhi for Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal was completed at a cost of Rs. 48,493. The work on the Rajkumar College at Raipur was nearing completion, the total expenditure to the close of the year amounting to Rs. 2,85,823.

9—IRRIGATION

IRRIGATION

[Brief Note on Irrigation Work done in the Central Provinces during the year 1915-16, for the Irrigation portion of the Public Works Department Annual Administration Report, and Statistical Abstract, Volume I.]

124. The monsoon rainfall of the year 1915 was exceptionally good and well distributed throughout the Province. The season was thus unfavourable for the extension of irrigation, but the kharif area irrigated shows no drop as compared with the previous year's figure, after deducting the area for which new works are responsible. The rabi area irrigated rose during the year to 7,134 acres, the highest figure recorded so far. The total area irrigated was 52,300 acres as compared with 44,405 acres in 1914-15 and 71,021 acres in 1913-14, a year of deficient rainfall. **Area under irrigation.**

125. Good progress was made during the year with the works under construction. The main canal of the Mahanadi works, the head-works of which were formally opened in February 1915, was being pushed towards completion; a beginning was made with irrigation from this work, and an area of 6,731 acres was irrigated. The Sukha Reservoir of the Tandula Canal advanced more satisfactorily than in the previous year. The progress on the Wainganga Canal on the whole was good, and the head-works were almost completed by the end of the year. The construction of the Ramtek Reservoir was completed, and the work on the large reservoirs in the Balaghat, Bhandara and Chanda Districts made good progress. The Gorajheri Tank in the latter district was completed, and the distributaries were practically finished. **Major Works.**

126. The grants and expenditure under the various fund heads were :—

Expenditure.

Head of Account	Grant.	Expenditure.
<i>Imperial.</i>	Rs.	Rs.
35.—Construction of Protective Irrigation Works	20,47,000	19,53,560
42.—Major Works—Working Expenses	85,000	87,118
49.—Productive Irrigation Works	29,04,000	26,13,590
<i>Provincial.</i>		
43.—Minor Works and Navigation	6,00,000	5,77,173
Deposits—Contribution	16,845	3,177
Total	56,52,845	52,34,618

It is probable that the expenditure would have at least equalled the previous year's expenditure of Rs. 54,14,060, which was the highest on record, but for the necessity for restriction in view of the financial situation.

127. The rates for irrigation of all crops remained the same as in the previous year. The total revenue demand for major and minor works taken together was Rs. 1,67,271, of which Rs. 1,36,287 was collected during the year. **Revenue.**

128. The financial success of Irrigation Works in the Province is in a large measure dependent on the introduction of agricultural improvements. During the year the Agricultural Department continued the demonstration of improved methods of rice cultivation, and at the Chandkuri Experimental Farm in the Raipur District irrigated crops of sugarcane, ground-nut and cotton were raised on the *bhata* soil of Chhattisgarh with marked success, a development which is of the highest importance for the tract which will be watered by the Mahanadi and Tandula Canals. **General.**

CHAPTER V

REVENUE AND FINANCE

[Further details and statistics will be found in Part IV of the Statistics of British India.]

GROSS REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

GROSS REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

129. The following statement compares the receipts and expenditure and closing balances under the various heads for the years 1914-15 and 1915-16:—

	Receipts.		Expenditure.		Closing Balance	
	1914-15	1915-16	1914-15	1915-16	1914-15	1915-16.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imperial Revenue ..	1 18 20 873	1 26 70 274	70 38 368	71 21 181
Provincial Revenue ...	2 93 07 324	2 99 44 455	3 05 15 078	2 85 25 100	07 45 524	1 00 04 873
Deposits of Local Funds --						
District Funds ...	37 00 345	38 04 103	36 75 015	41 29 067	10 17 140	15 02 244
Jagla and Local Cess Funds.	5 10 851	5 22 476	5 17 946	5 20 819	2 87 595	2 80 753
Other Local Funds ...	12 60 482	10 51 579	11 45 754	11 67 246	7 76 713	6 64 045
Municipal Funds ..	29 43 007	33 58 071	30 96 627	34 33 031	9 02 409	8 57 879
Total ..	4 95 42 882	5 03 81 477	4 50 88 818	4 50 01 579	1 36 29 890	1 34 60 694

REVENUE AND FINANCE—IMPERIAL

130. The Imperial Revenue for 1915-16 was Rs. 8,49,401 more than that of 1914-15, while the expenditure in 1915-16 was Rs. 82,783 more than that of the previous year. The heads under which striking differences occur are given in the following table:—

Revenue	Actuals.			Expenditure	Actuals.		
	1914-15.	1915-16.	Difference more + less —.		1914-15.	1915-16.	Difference : more +, less —.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue ..	94 07 881	98 69 082	+ 4 61 201	Refunds	38 330	57 827	+ 19 491
Opium ...	5 02 834	4 70 013	— 32 821	Famine Relief 'C' ..	1 12 621		— 1 12 621
Stamps ...	18 10 646	19 72 433	+ 1 61 787	Protective Irrigation Works	18 34 906	19 53 560	+ 1 18 654
Excise	27 63 791	25 16 466	— 2 47 325	Major Irrigation Works.	7 19 349	8 78 130	+ 1 58 781
Customs	2 54 937	2 36 497	— 18 440	Civil Works—In charge of Public Works Officers	10 80 752	9 42 501	— 1 38 251
Income-tax	4 54 455	4 73 905	+ 19 450	Other heads	32 52 434	32 89 163	+ 36 729
Tributes	2 46 187	2 32 187	— 14 000				
Miscellaneous ..	3 669	17 949	+ 14 280				
Civil Works—In charge of Public Works Officers.	45 837	73 098	+ 27 261				
Transfers between Imperial and Provincial.	— 38 37 803	— 33 60 785	+ 4 77 018				
Other heads ..	1 68 439	1 69 429	+ 990				
Total ..	1 18 20 873	1 26 70 274	+ 8 49 401	Total ..	70 38 398	71 21 181	+ 82 783

REVENUE.

131. *Land Revenue (Imperial share one-half).*—The increase was chiefly due to increased receipts under Ordinary Revenue on account of the recovery of the greater portion of the arrears of the past year.

Opium.—The decrease was due to the fall in the sale of opium owing to the continuance of war conditions.

Stamps.—The Stamp revenue during the year 1914-15 was adversely affected by the war, but there has been a recovery since April 1915. The increase shown above was chiefly under the head Sale of Court-fee Stamps.

Excise.—The decrease, which occurred mainly under the head Country Spirits—License Fees, was due to the fall in consumption owing to the disturbed conditions arising out of the war.

Customs.—The decrease was due to the disturbance of trade caused by the war. **REVENUE AND FINANCE**

Income-tax.—The increase is due to the adoption of more accurate methods of assessment.

Tributes.—The reduction was due to the recoveries from certain States having been effected in 1914-15 in advance.

Miscellaneous.—The increase was chiefly due to the compensation paid by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway for land acquired from the Military Department for the remodelling of the Nagpur Railway Station.

Civil Works—In charge of Public Works Officers.—The increase was mainly due to receipts on account of the sale of certain buildings to the Medical Authorities in Central India.

Transfers between Imperial and Provincial.—The decrease was chiefly due to the absence of the non-recurring assignment for the Muhammadan High School, Jubbulpore, and to the absence of an assignment in connection with the Famine Insurance Scheme, as the Fund has reached its maximum.

EXPENDITURE.

Refunds, &c.—The increase chiefly occurred under the head Excise Refunds and was due to the scheme for the remission of license fees for country liquor retail shops adopted by the Local Administration in January 1915.

Famine Relief (Civil).—No expenditure was required.

Protective Works—Irrigation.—The increase was due to larger expenditure on the Tandula Canal and Survey operations.

Major Works—Irrigation.—The increase occurred under Interest on Debt, which is calculated on the capital outlay on Irrigation Works to the end of the year.

Civil Works—In charge of Public Works Officers.—The decrease was due to the curtailment of expenditure on account of the war.

REVENUE AND FINANCE—PROVINCIAL.

132. The following statement compares the actuals of the two years 1914-15 and 1915-16. The details of the Major heads under which material differences have occurred are noted below :—

Revenue.	Actuals.			Expenditure.	Actuals.		
	1914-15.	1915-16.	Difference : more +, less—.		1914-15.	1915-16.	Difference : more +, less—.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue ...	94,12,949	98,74,249	+ 4,61,300	Excise ...	3,19,009	3,60,128	+ 41,119
Stamps ...	18,10,647	19,72,433	+ 1,61,786	Forest ...	19,36,569	17,34,336	—2,02,233
Excise ...	82,91,371	75,49,396	—7,41,975	Interest on Ordinary Debt.	1,74,443	1,98,774	+ 24,331
Income-tax ...	4,54,454	4,73,905	+ 19,451	General Administration.	9,71,025	9,25,185	—45,840
Registration ...	3,47,873	3,74,250	+ 26,377	Law and Justice—	28,17,148	28,82,588	+ 65,440
Interest ...	1,90,902	2,70,937	+ 80,035	Courts of Law.			
Law and Justice—	2,58,662	2,43,774	—14,888	Law and Justice—	7,51,965	6,56,887	—95,078
Courts of Law				Jails.			
Law and Justice—	2,77,557	2,17,291	—60,266	Police ...	34,60,413	35,88,951	+ 1,28,538
Jails.				Education ...	26,95,062	27,85,089	+ 90,027
Education ...	2,14,529	2,60,617	+ 46,088	Medical ...	13,98,606	12,31,787	—1,66,819
Medical ...	18,668	34,813	+ 16,145	Agriculture ...	7,37,743	7,81,288	+ 43,545
Receipts in aid of Superannuation, Retired and Compassionate Allowances.	1,78,420	2,27,244	+ 48,824	Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.	8,88,283	9,61,856	+ 73,573
Civil Works—In charge of Civil Officers.	Stationery and Printing.	4,01,092	3,70,130	—30,962
Civil Works—In charge of Public Works Officers.	2,60,654	3,13,097	+ 52,443	Reduction or Avoidance of Debt.	4,53,574	...	—4,53,574
Transfers between Imperial and Provincial.	38,37,803	33,60,785	—4,77,018	Irrigation Minor Works and Navigation.	9,06,729	5,77,173	—3,29,556
Other heads ...	37,52,835	37,71,664	+ 18,829	Civil Works—In charge of Civil Officers.	6,13,734	5,05,173	—1,08,561
				Civil Works—In charge of Public Works Officers.	73,29,326	63,90,214	—9,39,312
				Other heads ...	46,60,157	46,74,647	+ 14,490
Total ...	2,93,07,324	2,89,44,455	—3,62,869	Total ...	3,05,15,078	2,86,25,106	—18,89,972

REVENUE.

The variations under the heads which are divided in fixed proportions between Imperial and Provincial have been explained under Imperial Revenue and Finance. The variations under the remaining heads are noted below :—

Registration.—The increase, which was chiefly under the head Fees for Registering Documents, was due to the improvement of business in the later months of 1915.

Interest. - The increase was due to larger recoveries under Interest on Advances to Cultivators.

Law and Justice—Courts of Law.—The decrease was due to a fall in receipts under the detailed head Magisterial Fines

Law and Justice—Fails.—The decrease was due to the loss of the contracts for the supply of mattress cases to the Supply and Transport Department

Education—The improvement was chiefly due to increased receipts from the Morris College, Nagpur, which was provincialised from the 1st July 1915

Medical.—Larger sales of quinine account for the increase under this head.

Receipts in aid of Superannuation Retired and Compassionate Allowances—The increase was due to larger contributions from Municipal and other bodies for pensions for their employees.

Civil Works—In charge of Public Works Officers.—The increase was due to extra receipts on account of the sale of the Chief Commissioner's old railway saloon.

EXPENDITURE

133. *Excise.*—The increase, which was chiefly under Superintendence was due to the charges for the whole year on account of the Commissioner of Excise being debited to this head for the first time

Forest - The decrease was chiefly due to the curtailment of expenditure on account of the war.

Interest on Ordinary Debt.—The increase was chiefly due to larger advances to cultivators and loans to weavers

General Administration.—The decrease occurred under the head Staff and Household of the Chief Commissioner, and was due to the fact that the figures of 1914-15 included expenditure on the purchase of a motor car and a railway saloon

Law and Justice—Courts of Law.—The increase occurred under the heads Civil and Sessions Courts and Criminal Courts. The increase under the former was under Salaries of Divisional and Sessions Judges, District Judges and Munsiffs.

Law and Justice—Fails.—The decrease was due to less expenditure on rations, and to reduced purchase of raw materials owing to a smaller demand for articles of Jail manufacture.

Police—The increase was chiefly under the head District Executive Force, and was due to the fact that a larger number of officers than usual were on duty during the year and to the special measures taken to fill up vacancies in the rank and file of the force.

Education.—The chief variations occurred under the following heads :—

Increase—(1) Inspection ; (2) Government Colleges, General ; (3) Government Schools, General ; (4) Government Schools, Special.

Decrease—Grants-in-aid.

The increases were chiefly due to :—

- (1) the appointment of a senior officer as Inspector of Science and European Schools ;
- (2) the provincialisation of the Morris College, Nagpur, and to a furniture grant sanctioned for the Arts College, Jubbulpore ;
- (3) larger expenditure under Grants in support of Municipal and Local Schools and Establishment ; and
- (4) the reorganisation of the Subordinate Service and to larger expenditure under Stipends.

The decrease was owing to reduced expenditure on grants towards buildings.

Medical.—The decrease was due to the reduction of grants. The figures of 1914-15 included special grants to Dispensary Committees for building purposes.

Agriculture.—The increase was chiefly under Agriculture—Experimental Farms.

Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.—The increase was due to the normal growth of pension charges and to increased payments under the head Commuted Value of Pensions.

Stationery and Printing.—The decrease occurred chiefly under Stationery supplied from Central Stores, and was due to the restriction of the supply of stationery.

Reduction or Avoidance of Debt.—No charges appear under this head, because the maximum fixed for the Famine Insurance Scheme has been reached and no expenditure was incurred under the head Famine Relief.

Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation.—The decrease is explained by the fact that the actuals of 1914-15 were unduly high owing to scarcity conditions.

Civil Works—In charge of Civil Officers.—The decrease was due to less frequent transfer of grants to this head from the head Civil Works in charge of Public Works Officers for the maintenance of buildings and roads transferred to the control of Local Fund Engineers and to the transfer to the head Agriculture of provision for the arborisation of the station roads at Nagpur.

Civil Works—In charge of Public Works Officers.—The decrease was the result of the curtailment of works in view of the need for economy.

CHAPTER VI

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICES

DETAILS OF CENSUS

1--DETAILS OF CENSUS

134. An account of the above subject will be found on pages 37—54 of the Administration Report for the year 1911-12

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

2—BIRTHS AND DEATHS

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1915, Part I, Volume I, Part I, Statistical Abstract]

System of registration.

135. No change was made in the system of registration of vital statistics. Though the issue of instructions for the correct classification of deaths and the training of the vaccination staff have done much to improve registration there was still room for improvement in Municipal towns both in the recording of statistics and in the punishment of defaulters. During the year 624 persons were prosecuted for neglecting to report occurrences, but the fines imposed amounted only to Rs 519-6-0, an average of less than a rupee per defaulter.

Births.

136. The birth-rate of the year under report reflects the unhealthiness of the year 1914. The number of births registered was 667,340 as compared with 714,917 in 1914, and was the lowest recorded since 1904, the ratio *per mille* of population works out at 47.95, which is 3.42 less than in 1914 and 2.8 less than the quinquennial mean. The decrease was common to all districts save Mandla and Bilaspur, and was most marked in the northern parts of the Province. The percentage of male to female population was 104.59.

Deaths.

137. The number of deaths registered fell from 510,652 to 499,652 and the death-rate from 36.69 to 35.91 *per mille*. The proportion of infantile to total mortality was 56 per cent, one per cent less than in 1913, which was an exceptionally healthy year. Efforts are being made in various directions to deal with the question of mortality among children but the results so far obtained have not been encouraging.

Chief diseases.

138. The mortality from diseases was high under every head except cholera and small-pox. Plague prevailed more or less generally and claimed 20,264 deaths. The fever mortality was high especially during the later months of the year owing to the prolonged monsoon and rose to 237,834, which is 3,306 in excess of the previous year. Dysentery and diarrhoea were again responsible for a large number of deaths.

Special measures.

139. Anti-plague measures took the form chiefly of inoculation and evacuation, and 71,421 inoculations were performed. The special plague staff of 14 members was engaged in dealing with outbreaks of the disease and could not devote much attention to travelling dispensary work. In dealing with the problem of infantile mortality the employment of midwives has proved of little effect, and improvement depends mainly on the supervision and co-operation of the indigenous *dai* class, combined with the general enlightenment of the masses by education. An advance has been made in this direction by the Jubbulpore Municipality, which has adopted a system of registration of *daïs*. Six villages were brought under the Village Sanitation Act, and the amount spent on village improvements was considerably in excess of the expenditure of the previous year. A Bill to amend the Village Sanitation Act, with a view to widening the objects on which the funds locally raised can be spent, was under preparation. The sale of quinine expanded largely during the malarial season, and the quinine factory at the Nagpur Jail experienced considerable difficulty in meeting the increased demand.

3—EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

[Report on the Inland Emigration of the Central Provinces for the year ending the 30th June 1916, and Volume IV of the Statistical Abstract.]

140. The year under report is the first complete year since the introduction of Act VIII of 1915, which amended the Assam Labour and Emigration Act of 1901. On the repeal of Chapter III of the old Act, recruitment by contractors ceased, and the 133 contractors, sub-contractors and recruiters, who were licensed last year under that Chapter, disappeared; recruiting operations were confined to the sardari system under Chapter IV of the Act. Even apart from the effect of the cessation of contractors' operations, the strength of the recruiting agency showed a considerable decline, the number of local agents falling from 16 in 1914-15 to 5 and the number of sardars from 4,386 to 3,893. The circumstances of the year were unfavourable to the recruitment of labour for Assam; agricultural conditions were good, there was unfailing local demand for labour and a certain amount of recruitment took place in the north of the Province in connection with the war. In these circumstances labour emigration declined considerably and the number of labourers recruited actually fell from 6,113 in the preceding year to 3,600, nearly half the decrease being in the Jubbulpore District, where there was a fall in the number, as compared with the previous year, of 56 per cent. The figures for the districts of Jubbulpore and Bilaspur show that at these two chief centres of recruitment the bulk of labour is still drawn from the adjoining Native States.

141. There were in all six prosecutions, of which five were successful; **Working of various minor irregularities which arose in connection with recruitment were Act VI of 1901.** adequately dealt with by the District Magistrates. The new procedure worked well; local agents worked harmoniously with District Officers, and there was a distinct improvement in the general conduct of recruitment.

142. Recruitment under Chapter III of the Act having been abolished, **Financial** there were no receipts during the year. Expenditure amounted to Rs. 138-2-6.

4—MEDICAL RELIEF**MEDICAL
RELIEF**

[Annual Notes on Hospitals and Dispensaries in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1915, and Volume III of the Statistical Abstract.]

143. During the year, which opened with 273 hospitals and dispensaries, **Number of 17 new dispensaries were opened and 9 were closed. There were thus 281 dispensaries.** institutions open at the end of the year; of these, 31 were maintained by the State, 172 by Local Bodies and 28 by Railways, while the remainder were either private or State-aided institutions. The three peripatetic dispensaries in the Mandla, Betul and Raipur Districts, which were opened as an experimental measure in 1914, did much useful work and their permanent retention has been sanctioned. Besides these, there were 13 epidemic travelling dispensaries at work under the control of the Sanitary Commissioner.

144. The total number of patients treated at the various dispensaries in the **Number of Province was 1,802,778 against 1,746,424 in the previous year. The increase, patients.** which was shared by most districts, was confined to out-door patients.

145. The total number of private dispensaries open at the end of the year **Private was 39, of which 23 were maintained by Missionary Bodies and 16 by private dispensaries.** individuals. The total number of patients treated at these institutions was 167,077, of whom 2,075 were in-door and 165,002 out-door patients.

146. The ailments for which relief was chiefly sought were, in order of **Relative numbers, malarial fevers, diseases of the digestive and respiratory systems, the skin frequency of diseases.** and the eye, and ulcers. The increases, as compared with the preceding year, were chiefly under malaria and diseases of the skin.

147. The number of surgical operations rose during the year from 49,029 to **Surgical 49,978 and the number of selected operations fell from 3,966 to 3,577. The operations.** marked decrease in the number of selected operations was mainly due to the

prevalence of plague and the reversion of Indian Medical Service officers to Military duty. Among the selected operations there were 970 extractions of lens for cataract, 154 operations for stone in the bladder, 119 amputations and 258 obstetric cases.

Income.

148. The total receipts amounted to Rs 13,44,702, Rs 74,558 less than in 1914. The Government contribution increased by Rs 20,230 under the head "Salaries" and decreased by Rs 91,506 under the head "Other use." The increase in the former was due to the revision of the pay of Sub-Assistant Surgeons and the decrease in the latter to the fact that no special grants were made, as in the previous year, for buildings and improvements owing to the curtailment of expenditure on account of the war. Indian subscriptions showed a decrease of Rs. 38,216, which is due to the fact that in 1914 special contributions were received in certain districts for improvement of dispensary buildings.

Expenditure.

149. The total expenditure amounted to Rs 9,14,435 against Rs 9,10,185 in the preceding year.

**TREATMENT
OF THE
INSANE**

5--TREATMENT OF THE INSANE

[Notes on the Annual Statement of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1915, and Volume III of the Statistical Abstract]

**Numbers
and health.**

150. The total number of lunatics in the Asylum at Nagpur was 374 at the beginning of 1915; there were 133 admissions, four readmissions, 99 discharges and 46 deaths, so that the population at the close of the year was 366. Of the admissions 27 were criminal lunatics. Fifty-six were discharged as cured and four as improved. There were 197 admissions into the hospital as against 84 in the previous year. The mortality rate was 12.30 per cent of the average strength as against 6.13 in the previous year and an average of 11.08 for the past five years. Of the 40 patients who died, 10 were received in bad health and died within a few months of their admission and most of the deaths were due to dysentery (11), tuberculosis (15) and general debility (7).

Expenditure.

151. The total expenditure amounted to Rs 60,370 as compared with Rs 72,042 in the previous year, the outlay on buildings decreased by over Rs 13,000 and Rs 2,000 remained to be paid at the close of the year on account of bills for supplies delayed in presentation. The average cost per lunatic worked out at Rs 118 as against Rs 167 in 1914. The amount realised from paying inmates rose from Rs 4,591 to Rs 5,234 owing to the admission of five paying patients.

**Industries and
improvements.**

152. The receipts from manufactures and agriculture amounted to Rs. 4,338 as compared with Rs. 3,687 in 1914, the increase being due to the sale of old stock. Rs 3,261 was spent on structural improvements, and plans for further extensions to the buildings were drawn up. A scheme for the improvement of the pay and prospects of the staff and for additional establishment was sanctioned during the year.

SANITATION

6--SANITATION

[Annual Sanitary Report of the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1915, and Volume III of the Statistical Abstract]

**Chief sanitary
works.**

153. The most important water-works in course of construction during the year were those for the supply of the Akola, Arvi, Buldana and Damoh Municipalities, and good progress was made on all these schemes. The main work of constructing the Gorewara Reservoir for the Nagpur Water-works was completed and subsidiary improvements were effected in connection with this supply. The principal drainage schemes which were in course of construction were those at Nagpur and Harda, and substantial progress was made on both. Of the former work nearly half was completed, and the major portion of the Harda scheme was finished. The drainage scheme sanctioned in the previous year for the Craddock Town suburb of Nagpur was started and all materials for the work were prepared.

154. Provincial grants amounting to Rs. 4,12,648 were made to Municipal Committees in connection with drainage schemes, water-supply projects and town improvements. Although, owing to the financial situation, expenditure on these objects had to be curtailed, town sanitation continued to progress. In Nagpur houses were acquired for the improvement of roads and a grain store-house and public markets were erected. In other towns the protection of wells, the construction of public latrines, isolation sheds and fly-proof meat markets and the improvement of tanks, water-courses, drainage and conservancy arrangements were proceeded with, while several Municipalities introduced by-laws to regulate building, slaughter-houses, burial and burning grounds and stalls for milch cattle. The Sanitary Board considered a number of schemes for improvements and the allocation of grants for sanitary purposes. The appointment of a separate Sanitary Superintendent for the large Civil Station of Nagpur was sanctioned, and in connection with the scheme for Sanitary Inspectors there were in all 19 trained men employed in the Province, five additional Inspectors being appointed during the year. The medical inspection of School children received increased attention and produced good results in promoting vaccination, bringing cases of sickness under treatment and disclosing overcrowding and other sanitary defects.

155. Special grants, amounting to Rs. 55,000, were contributed by Government for the improvement of water-supply in rural areas, and an allotment of Rs. 38,403 was sanctioned for improvements in ryotwari villages, but of the former considerable balances remained unspent. During the year six villages were brought under the operation of the Village Sanitation Act. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 1,54,016 and the expenditure to Rs. 1,70,758, the figures for the previous year being Rs. 1,73,406 and Rs. 1,54,697 respectively. In the "Town Fund" villages and other villages having special funds of their own the receipts amounted to Rs. 72,017 and the expenditure to Rs. 75,783. The expenditure on rural sanitation was devoted, as usual, to the clearing of village sites, drains, road construction and water-supply, and though its allotment showed some improvement over the previous year, the outlay on water-supply was still inadequate.

7—VACCINATION

VACCINATION

[Notes on Vaccination in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1915-16, and Volume III of the Statistical Abstract.]

156. The number of deaths from small-pox showed a marked decline and was 865 in 1915-16 as against 3,133 in 1914-15. The heaviest mortality occurred again in the Drug District.

157. The total number of vaccination operations performed during the year in British Territory was 599,959, a decrease of 2,684 compared with the previous year. The decline of 8,126 in primary vaccinations, which was most marked in the Amraoti, Jubbulpore, Chhindwara, Betul and Damoh Districts, is explained by the prevalence of plague and the low birth-rate of the year. Re-vaccinations showed an increase of 5,442, in which all but three districts shared; the continued falling off in the Narsinghpur District is due to the abandonment of the practice previously followed in this and a few other districts of re-vaccinating mothers after child-birth. The periodical inspection of school children by the local dispensary and plague staff resulted in the vaccination of a large number of unprotected children. The provisions of the Vaccination Act were extended to six Notified Areas and the Municipal town of Khapa.

158. There were 41,180 births in Municipal towns during the year and 11,971 deaths of children under one year of age. The number of infants fully vaccinated was 27,270, or 93 per cent of the children available, an increase of two per cent over the record of the preceding year.

159. The special buildings for the Central Vaccine Depôt at Nagpur were still under construction, and lymph could not be prepared in the existing accommodation at the Depôt on a sufficiently large scale for supply to all districts.

In all, seven districts received their supply from the Depot, two districts being added during the year. The quality of the lymph was good and the preparation was carried out with greater economy than in the districts which had to depend on local manufacture.

Expenditure.

160. The total cost of the department was Rs 121 858 as against Rs. 95,604 in the previous year, the increase being due mainly to the improvement in the pay of the staff and to additions to the establishment. The cost per successful vaccination has in consequence risen from Re 0-2-6 to Re 0-3-3, and Re. 0-3-7, if the expenditure at the Central Vaccine Depot be taken into account. Of the total expenditure, Rs 98,655 was contributed by Local Funds and Rs 10,969 by Municipalities, the remainder, with the exception of Rs 830 paid by Cantonments, being contributed from Provincial Funds. The expenditure incurred in working the Depot was Rs 11,404.

CHAPTER VII

INSTRUCTION

1—GENERAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

GENERAL
SYSTEM OF
PUBLIC
INSTRUCTION

161. An account of this subject will be found on pages 97 and 98, Sections 296—304, of the Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces for the year 1911-12.

2—EDUCATION

EDUCATION

[Report on the state and progress of education in the Central Provinces and Betar for the year 1915-16, and Volume V of the Statistical Abstract]

162. The year's record shows an increase of 37 schools and 2,715 pupils. **General.** This expansion is not so large as that effected in recent years. In the Primary stage, the number of schools and pupils actually decreased, the falling off in attendance, which was confined to the Lower Primary stage, being attributed to the prevalence of epidemic disease and in part to the measures taken to strike habitual absentees off the rolls and to reduce unwieldy classes within the limits imposed by staff and accommodation. At the close of the year educational institutions of all kinds numbered 4,566, while the total number of scholars was 350,381. The percentage of the total number of scholars to the total population of school-going age was 16·79 as compared with 16·65 in the preceding year.

163. The total expenditure on education amounted to nearly fifty-four lakhs **Expenditure.** of rupees, an increase of five lakhs over that of the previous year. Further progress was made with the utilisation of the Government of India grants, and while the balance remaining out of non-recurring grants stood at about five lakhs, the recurring grants, except for two small items, had been fully utilised on the objects for which they were allotted.

164. There was an increase of 67 in the number of students attending the **Collegiate education.** four Arts Colleges and the Science College. The Morris College at Nagpur was taken under the direct control of Government during the year and the staff was strengthened by the addition of another lecturer. The new buildings for the Jubbulpore Arts College were completed and fully equipped shortly after the close of the year and the College is now able to provide sufficient accommodation for immediate needs in that centre. The administration of the Colleges was satisfactory throughout the year, and some progress was made in the development of the social life of these institutions. With the exception of the M. A. and B. Sc. Examinations, the academic performances of the Colleges were inferior to those of the previous year, though they were generally on a level with the results for the University as a whole.

165. Though the increase in the number of pupils in High Schools was **Secondary education—Boys.** well maintained, the rate of increase in Middle Schools was less marked than in 1914-15, and while the number of pupils in High Schools increased by 561 and one new school was opened, the number of Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools rose by three and the number of pupils in this stage by 779. During the year a revised Grant-in-aid Code was introduced, under which the grants to all aided schools for a period of five years are assessed, so far as possible, at one time, when the resources available and the requirements of all institutions can be comprehensively reviewed, and all grants sanctioned at the beginning or in the course of the quinquennium are terminable on the same date. In view of the limitations on the resources available for meeting the demand for Secondary education and of the necessity of keeping Government combined Middle and High Schools within efficient dimensions, the number of sections into which each class in the High stage of these schools may be

divided has been limited to two or three and only one section is permitted for classes in the Middle stage, while in Government Middle Schools classes are limited to two sections. There was a further increase in the number of candidates appearing for the Matriculation Examination held in 1916. The results were disappointing and the percentage of passes fell from 41 to 36.

Primary education—Boys.

166. There was a decrease of 24 in the number of Primary Schools and of 1,128 in the number of pupils as against an increase of 6,407 pupils recorded in 1914-15. In Berar fifty-one indigenous schools were closed owing to the failure of the subscriptions on which they depended. On the other hand, while the number of scholars in the infant classes fell by over 5,000 the numbers in the Upper Primary stage increased by nearly 2,000.

Training College.

167. The Training College, Jubbulpore, continued to produce satisfactory results and the number of students under training was only one less than in the previous year. The working of the Normal Schools was generally efficient. The re-training class at Jubbulpore continued to do useful work, and similar classes were opened at Nagpur and Amraoti.

Technical and special education.

168. The Engineering School at Nagpur made satisfactory progress in all branches. The Mechanical Engineering Staff was strengthened and minor additions were made to the buildings and further extensions on a larger scale are being carried out. The School of Handicrafts, with the Mochi class attached, also had a record of successful and practical work in training craftsmen in improved methods.

Female education.

169. There was an increase of one in the number of institutions for Indian girls, and the number of pupils attending them rose from 19,006 to 19,356, the bulk of the increase being in the Primary stage. In Secondary Education twenty-five girls reached the High stage and one passed the Matriculation Examination in 1915. The number of pupils in the Girls' High School, Amraoti, rose to 38; the staff has been strengthened and suitable buildings are being provided. While the pupils in Primary Schools for girls numbered 17,267 the number of girls attending boys' schools rose to 15,169; of this number more than half belonged to the Chhattisgarh Division, where co-education is said to be popular. The number of girls in the Upper Primary stage increased by 24 per cent, and two Aided Primary Schools were provincialised.

Schools for Europeans.

170. The number of schools increased by one and the attendance increased by nearly a hundred. There was a slight increase in the grants contributed by Government towards the maintenance and education of orphans and poor children. Further progress was made in school building and increased grants-in-aid have prepared the way for the future improvement of these institutions. There was an increase in the number of trained teachers, but the staffs in this class of school still stand in need of considerable improvement.

Muhammadian education.

171. The number of Muhammadian pupils under instruction increased by 1,198, but this increase, which is confined almost entirely to private institutions, is due to the inclusion of pupils attending Maktabas in the statistics for the first time in the year under report. In other institutions, except for a slight increase in the number attending Colleges and High Schools, the number of pupils declined. The main building of the Muhammadian High School, Amraoti, was completed and the construction of the Anjuman High School, Jubbulpore, has been begun.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS

3—LITERATURE AND THE PRESS

Vernacular Press.

172. During 1915-16 the publications registered in the Central Provinces and Berar numbered 103 as against 114 in 1914-15 and 103 in 1913-14, the decrease being mainly under the heads "Religion" and "Geography." Of these publications, three were in English, fifty-four in Hindi, twenty-six in Marathi, one in Gujrati, two in Urdu (written in Nagri characters) and the remainder in two languages. There were seventeen books of a religious character, nine treating of geography, two of science including mathematics, eight of law, nine

of languages, five of philosophy and two each of arts and of medicine; thirteen were works of poetry, three of fiction and one of drama, while the rest dealt with miscellaneous subjects. Twenty-six books were of an educational character.

173. The number of newspapers and periodicals published in the Province during the year under report was twenty-nine as against thirty in the last year. In the course of the year three papers ceased to appear, *vis.*, the *Central Provinces Standard* (of Katni in the Jubbulpore District), the *Safir-i-Berar* (of Amraoti) and the *Sumati* (of Wardha); while three new papers were started. The *Marwari* (of Nagpur), the leading Hindi newspaper in the Province, which ceased to appear in 1914-15, renewed publication during the year. The *Hitavada* among the English and the *Maharashtra* among the Marathi newspapers continue to be the leading organs in the Province and command some influence over the reading public. The *Berar Samachar* (Akola) is still the leading local paper in Berar, but its influence is inconsiderable. The *Hitakarini* (of Jubbulpore), the monthly circulation of which has risen to 2,300 copies, finds support principally in educational circles.

4—LITERARY SOCIETIES

LITERARY SOCIETIES

174. The number of Literary and Scientific Societies at the close of the year was forty-nine. The majority of these were subscription libraries, depending for their support chiefly on subscriptions from members. Three societies received grants from Government and one from a District Council, while Municipalities contributed towards the maintenance of fifteen.

5—ARTS AND SCIENCES

ARTS AND SCIENCES

175. The Nagpur Museum continued to make useful progress, and popular interest in the institution was more than maintained. The daily average number of visitors to the Museum rose from 277 in 1914-15 to 373 in 1915-16. Though the schemes for the extension of the premises of the institution had to be postponed, the alterations effected in the building are a distinct improvement. A considerable number of birds and mammals were added to the Natural History Section, and work continued on the identification and classification of local insects, molluscs and the like. An interesting item was the discovery in the local tanks of a large mud turtle (*Trionyx sulcifrons*), which is new to science and which has been described in the Records of the Indian Museum; other interesting additions were also made to the Vivaria. In the Archæological Section, the description of the Moghal coins in the collection was concluded, though the completion of the catalogue was delayed. The formation of an Ethnological Section was postponed for want of space. The Raipur Museum did not attract so many visitors as in the previous year, the attendance falling from 97,393 to 82,107. The Weaving School attached to this Museum, which has not proved altogether successful on the present lines of working, is to be taken in hand by the Department of Industries, and it is hoped that this will set matters right. The financial position of the institution remained satisfactory.

CHAPTER VIII

ARCHÆOLOGY

[For further information, see Archaeological Survey of India (New Series) Volume XIX]

ARCHÆOLOGY 176. The expenditure of the Public Works Department on monuments and antiquities during the year 1915-16 amounted to Rs. 16,613. The work of restoring the temple at Lassar, in the Amraoti District, which was taken in hand in 1914-15, was practically completed during the year at a cost of Rs. 13,033.

CHAPTER IX

MISCELLANEOUS

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1—ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

**ECCLESIAS-
TICAL JURIS-
DICTION**

177. The Diocese of Nagpur, which was formed in 1903, includes the whole of the Central Provinces and Berar, the district of Sambalpur in the Province of Bihar and Orissa, Central India, Ajmere-Merwara, and all stations in Rajputana except Mount Abu. There were no changes during the year. **Ecclesiastical.**

2—STATIONERY

STATIONERY

178. The total value of stationery supplied to offices and courts from the Central Depôt, including the cost of carriage, and the value of stationery purchased locally decreased from Rs. 98,526 in 1914-15 to Rs. 94,387 in 1915-16, a decrease of four per cent. The charges on account of conveyance of forms also fell from Rs. 7,540 to Rs. 6,733. The value of stationery supplied to printing presses, including the cost of carriage, fell from Rs. 1,22,415 in 1914-15 to Rs. 89,434 in 1915-16, a decrease of 26 per cent.

3—GENERAL

GENERAL

179. The number of raingauges maintained remained the same as in the previous year. Of these, 22 were under the control of the Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department, 14 under the control of the Imperial Meteorological Department, while 16 were in the Feudatory States and the remainder were under the supervision of the Director of Land Records. No change was made in the location of raingauge stations, but the gauges at Barur in the Amraoti District and Basim in the Akola District were removed to more suitable sites at these places. Arrangements are being made for the location of additional gauges in the Nagpur District at Parseoni, Bori, Deolapar and Tharsa. The number of inspections increased considerably during the year. **Registration of rainfall.**

REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION
OF THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR
FOR THE YEAR
1915-16



Agpur

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1917

